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俺が無職の職業冒険者を目指すワケ。

I Aim to Be an Adventurer with the Jobclass of “Jobless”

Arc I - Adventurer Training Institute, 「the Royal
Academy Jupiter」

Part 1

by スフレ

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Prologue

「Oh, are you an adventurer?」

After the young woman was saved from the monster who was attacking her, she suddenly asked me if I was an adventurer.

「I guess I am jobless?」

I answered her question while tearing off the fur of the demon monster.

「Jobless? I haven't heard of such a thing. You seemed very used to fighting, are you perhaps in a Guild?」

「Nope」

I could have been an adventurer instead of being jobless. I once had the idea of being one but I didn't since it seems troublesome.

「Then what is your job?」

「None. Didn't I say I was Jobless? If I am forced to, I'll just defeat a monster and earn some money.」

「For you to earn your daily income...you're still in your teens, right? But if you are strong enough to knock down chimeras, certainly there must be a reason... for your parents, maybe?」

「No. I had my foster parent but he died one year ago.」

「.....I'm sorry. I shouldn't have asked.」

「No, don't worry about it. Then, I'm going now.」

After I finished skinning the fur, I started to leave,

「——Wa, Wait」

The young woman stopped me from leaving,

「Do you have any relatives?」

「No. I live alone, but what does that got to do with this?」

I was wondering why the woman strangely seemed to consider my words. But

I got my answer immediately,

「I have a proposal for you! ...Do you want to be an adventurer?」

That conversation is where it all started. I'm sure that if I did not save that woman, I would spend the rest of my life hunting down monsters to earn money 'till the day my life ends.

Thanks to this chance encounter, I of the jobclass,jobless, would go to adventurer training institution—Royal Academy of Jupiter as an adventurer cadet.

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Chapter 1 - Adventurer Training Institute, 「the Royal Academy Jupiter」 ① - Admission

While I have been walking since early morning, it was still possible to arrive even if the sun was already high.

(Still, this is an amazing place...)

Vast and Extensive grounds with spectacular fountains at front, decorated gardens in vibrant colors, but the most shocking was the large and magnificent castle that can overwhelm you just by looking at it.

(...Does a king live here?)

It was hard to imagine that this was an academy where adventurers are trained. I imagined the school to be more simpler and cheap.

(Rather than a place where adventurers are taught, this seems to be a home to some aristocratic family.)

When I think about it, it seems quite ironic.

<TLN: Because adventurers always seem quite poor, so he finds it ironic that they are being taught in a castle.>

「You there! What do you think you're doing?!」

I heard a really nervous voice from behind. A woman came out of the forest—with black hair, a sharp ear(elf) and blue eyes—glaring at me.

「Is it a student here? Judging from the appearance...an adventurer? But he is too young, and also his equipment. Isn't he too lightly dressed to be an adventurer? If he is a thief or a pervert, then I have to subdue him.....?」

The eyes of the Hitomi-like woman seemingly appraised me, looking at me from top to bottom then bottom to top.

<TLN: Not sure about that “Hitomi”, she just appeared in the translation but she seems to be a Japanese Gravure Idol>

(Such a serious fellow.....)

My first impression of the elf in front of me. She seems honest and way

serious. From the nature of her voice, she seems to be a nervous but a straight-laced person.

Striking black hair arranged beautifully in her shoulders, her bangs were cut completely straight without deviation and doesn't get in her eyes.

Her oval-like glasses and almond eyes seems to bring out her honest and serious atmosphere.

Her clothes were tied firmly by red ribbon without a a feeling of sloppiness. Her clothes were clean without a speck of dirt. Her red ribbon accentuating her white outfit, though that ribbon seems a little bit painful being tied firmly like that.

The bottom....Though I feel the skirt feels too short, this makes it easier to move in.

「Wha,What are you looking at, you pervert!」

(Oops....)

I seemed to have stared at her unintentionally.

「This is bad. This is bad... Ah, I am very unfamiliar with this city. Because you were too beautiful, I stared at you unconsciously. Just in case, my name is Mars Ruina, I will be here as a student from now on,yoroshiku onegaishimasu! 」
<TLN: In case you don't know, which i doubt it, "yoroshiku onegaishimasu" is like saying "Best Regards" in English when you're meeting for the first time.>

After I said a light introduction, I reached out my hand. But instaed of grasping my hand, she stared at me with suspicious eyes.

「You? A new student? That's strange. I have not heard anything about a new student.」

「Strange? What's strange?」

「Well, I have not heard anyth——」

The moment the girl was about to say something,

「Mars!」

A voice inviting me from the gate. That strong, determined voice seems familiar.

「It's me, Laina. You came, as promised.」

I knew that familiar red-haired woman standing in front of “Royal Academy of Jupiter”. So, her being a teacher here was not a lie after all....If it was, I would be treated as a pervert by the woman in front of me.

I wryly smiled in my heart. With a GOGOGO—, the gate was now seriously opened.

<TLN: GOGOGO is the sound the gate made as it opened. ゴ"ゴ"ゴ">

「I was waiting for you. Follow me, I'll introduce you to the dean.」

「Oh.(yes)」

As I started following her, the black-haired woman called out to her,

「Instructor! Is it true that this man here is a new student?!」

The woman said with an unpleasant look on her face. Her face was telling me that she was very unhappy. I wonder if entering the school will cause problems for me.

「Yeah, was there something wrong?」

「....No, I'm sorry for my impoliteness.」

With Laina's words, the woman reluctantly backed down.

「If there isn't any problems, please excuse us.」

I started walking beside Laina again. I felt eyes filled with hostility looking at me from behind while I was walking.

「Did I do something to offend her?」

「No, you did not. However, you can't understand.」

「Understand?」

「Someone like you entering in the middle of the term is unusual.」

「Is there any problems with that?」

This much hostility won't happen for a reason of this level. Well, whether she believes Laina's explanation depends on her.

「If this was just a normal academy, this wouldn't be unusual, but this is an academy for teaching adventurers.」

「I know that. But, even so, why does she regard me with such hostility?」

「Normally, there is a severe entrance test to be able to enter the Academy. You will not only be tested by General Knowledge but also battle knowledge and actual technique. The students who can enter here are only the students who took the examination and passed admirably. There is a very rare case of being exempted from the exam and they are normally recommended by the school. And an admission isn't permitted other than being recommended by this academy. In other words, a student can only be exempted if he/she shows remarkable performance. Naturally, this student is exempted from the harsh examination test, as well as the students who obtains an instructor's recommendation. By the way, the tuition is completely free, as well.」

「In other words, the students who are recommended here and entered the school, are the elites?」

「Such a thing is true. This academy is not just an adventurer school but a 'rat race' as well. A major guild or a national intelligence awaits an excellent student, but a desolate future awaits the underachievers. So, in the eyes of the students who passed the general examination, the ones who entered through an instructor's recommendation is a target of hate as well as envy and jealousy. Do you understand?」

I see. I nodded. I can also understand why the girl looked at me with such hostility.

「One way or another, you who entered the school at such time will attract attention. You may be a bit reluctant but if you become a target of envy, you have to do something about it yourself. We, the instructors, can't interfere with the affairs of our students that much.」

I think including the use of force in this school affects the results of the students here.

「I'm not hoping for it, but if it gets troublesome, there won't be much problem if I resort to force, right?」

「Oh, but please control yourself. To the degree that no one dies, okay?」

Said Laina while winking. Well, this instructor does appeal to the use of force on settling problems within students. This Adventurer Academy seems to be

more interesting than I thought.

Moreover, there were many students here that was the same age as me. Because of the fact that I did not receive general education or attended the school, I was quite excited.

「Then, this castle really is the Academy....」

Laina and I are walking through the school grounds, while the castle-like school was in front of my eyes.

「Isn't there a much more appropriate building other than this? Other academies are quite small compared to here.」

I entered and advanced straight into the academy, and climbed the stairs. The second floor, the third floor, the fourth floor and the fifth floor—

Heck, how many rooms does this academy have.....?

Laina explained the facilities on each floor to answer my question. She explained that there was a classroom for each grade, a facility for experiments, battle practice and magic as well as a faculty room for the instructors.

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Chapter 2 - Adventurer Training Institute, 「the Royal Academy Jupiter」 ② - Admission

And, when we finally reached the tenth floor,

「This here is the Headmaster's room.」

Lania told me. The staircase has already ended at this level. There were many doors and rooms on the lower floors, but this floor has only one room ahead. How much time did it take to climb up here?

「I know you lived by the country side but here, the headmaster is the most important person in the academy. The headmaster was once a wizard of a great guild, a former adventurer, who fought and defeated Demon King. Sadly, the guild disbanded after Demon King's subdual.」

「Eh...the demon king....defeated,huh...」

I have heard about this story. The great adventures of the heroes who toppled the Demon King's reign and subdued him.

If not for them, we won't have this peaceful life. Monsters who roamed about are really few compared to time when the demon king reigned.

But it doesn't mean that when they defeated the demon king, all the monsters are gone, there are still demons in unknown lands, as well as those that live in unexplored dungeons.

By the way, a guild is an organization where different adventurers gather together, the so-called 'Adventurer's Guild'. Those that can graduate from the academy can join a guild and take up different missions called 'quests'. There are quests such as monster subjugation, dungeon exploration, as well as collecting materials. It may be said that quests decide the world's affairs and development. This is second-hand information I got from my master and foster parent, Eine.

「Therefore, I ask you to please show respect and be polite in front of the headmaster. Though you are little bit cocky, I don't like a person who gets angry easily.」

Lania knocked on the door saying,

「Excuse us, headmaster. I brought the adventurer cadet that I recommended.」

After Lania finished speaking, the door slowly opened by itself.

(Heee....to be able to use magic to open a door...)

It seems that the headmaster is fond of elaborate planning. I am quite fond of that youthful attitude.

「Please excuse us.」

I followed Lania into the headmaster's room. Sitting behind a long desk with his elbows on top of the desk was the discernible figure of an old man.

(ehh...so this old man is the headmaster, huh...)

Because i heard about him being being a great wizard, I imagined him to have a long beard and a robe instead of this healthy-looking grandpa.

He wears a black robe that stretched along his back. In his face was a fearless smile, filled with confidence, without any sign of his age. Doesn't he have to have a white hair and a long beard if he is old? His bushy beard was trimmed beautifully, looking very clean, far from my image of a so-called 'wizard'. It was very hard to discern his true age.

「Sorry to keep you waiting. This person here is——」

「Oh, are you Mars-kun? I am the head of this academy, Cadus Liner」

「I'm Mars Ruina.」

「Mars! Mind your language when speaking to the headmaster....!」

Lania was feeling helpless. Sorry, but I have not received education since I was born so I did not know the usage of honorifics in speech.

「No need, i don't mind it. So, has Mars-kun already heard about the purpose of the academy?」

「About it being an academy that trains adventurers?」

「My Royal academy of jupiter is the only academy supported by ten countries to bring up adventurers in the continent. In other words, most of the people entering this academy aims to be an adventurer.」

When I first met Lania, she told me the same thing but,

「I never really wanted to be an adventurer. The only reason I came here because Lania invited me to.」

Actually, I spend everyday lazing around and if I ran out of money, I'll just hunt a monster and earn some income for myself. I spent my days doing worthless things repeatedly, such was my life. But that doesn't mean that I'm dissatisfied in my way of living. Simply I was bored when I accidentally saved Lania, so I decided to accept her invitation in becoming an adventurer.

That's the only reason. Really—

「I already heard about the story from Lania-sensei. In your case, there is a special reason why we asked you to enroll at our academy. Of course, we won't force you to become an adventurer. But isn't there a reason why you decided to enroll in our academy?」

「A reason....」

Though I did lived through everyday just lazing around and being idle, there is one thing which I wanted. I won't be able to get it if I continue to live alone in the mountains. Therefore, I had an expectation that my wish might be fulfilled when Lania asked me if I wanted to be an adventurer. So,

「One, I only have one reason.」

「And what would that be?」

Asked the headmaster, looking very curious,

「...I want to make friends.」

That was my answer. And the only wish I had when I came to this school, I want to fulfill my goal. Never in my miserable life did I have someone to call a friend. Maybe it was because of the environment where I lived in. That's why, in this place where many people gather, I seriously want to go and make friends.

「Friends....? Hmmm. It was quite unexpected but your reason is fascinating.」

His strict expression loosened slightly.

「Are there a lot of students here? I didn't have time to spend with people of my age, and so far there is not anyone whom I can call a friend. Therefore, I

want to make a friend for life here.」

「Indeed. Despite being an academy that raise adventurers, the fact that it is an academy will never change. This is a place where one does not just learn but also a place where students make friends.」

Headmaster smiled as if satisfied and nodded greatly.

「I understand your reason for coming here. But I want to confirm it once more.」

The headmaster's cheeks tightened, he looked up at me with his previous serious expression.

「I heard from Lania-sensei about your ability. Won't you show me its power, as well?」

「Power? What should I do? Is there a monster here at the academy and you want me to defeat it? Or would you rather fight me instead?」

Lania seems to be baffled by my words. And the Headmaster said,

「Hahahahahahaha! Fight against me? It's been decades since the last time I was challenged like that!」

The dean was laughing, seemingly quite pleased. Seeing the Headmaster laughing, Lania was dumbfounded with her mouth wide open. It was such a stupid expression that I honestly want to show it to herself. When Lania noticed me, she hurriedly closed her mouth and glared at me.

(W..Why is she glaring at me...?)

Though I did look at her, it's still unintentional. Well, putting that aside,

「I am very sorry for laughing like that. Just that it's been a long time since I found someone as amusing as you. This one really wants to go and see your power, but I am still the headmaster. I really can't fight against a student, even if it's just a spar. Unfortunate...but....those are the rules...」

The headmaster hesitated while stroking the beard on his chin,

「I cannot fight you myself but how about fighting one of my familiars?」
「AH! Headmaster, no matter how one puts it, that is still.....」

Is it really that surprising? Lania was showing a bewildered expression when

she heard the headmaster's proposal.

(Is there really a problem about fighting the director.....?)

I only hoped to be told what to do, I'm honestly disappointed.

「If that's what you prefer, it's okay to do it right now.」

「Do you understand what you are saying? Did you even listen to me? About the Headmaster being one of the heroes who saved the world?」

「So? What about it?」

「What do you mean 'what about it?'? I know that you are strong but no matter how strong you are, against a hero you're still....」

「Were you even listening? It's not like I'm gonna fight the headmaster himself, right?」

「Of course, I'm only going to be fighting using my summoned familiars. And if things get dangerous, I'll resummon them back immediately.」

「That seems to be the case.」

「.....」

Lania felt helpless when she heard our argument.

(By chance, does Lania have a headache? She always seem to have a hard time understanding our conversation.)

Then, if those entrance examination that happens every year are more tedious than this, I bet that is already the end for Lania.

「Then, let's start immediately.」

Thus began my entrance examination to the Royal Academy of Jupiter.

Chapter 3 - Adventurer Training Institute, 「the Royal Academy Jupiter」 ③ - Admission

I need to beat the familiar which the Headmaster has summoned. It was a simple and straight-forward examination, but it is quite unexpected.

「Haa....(sigh) If that's what you want I won't stop you anymore.」

Lania sighed dejectedly,

「.....amazing.」

I voiced out my admiration.

Well, we can't start the battle here at the headmaster's room. I too have at least that much of common sense in me.

But,

「Is this your first time seeing spatial magic?」

「Oh, there is this kind of magic as well?」

The moment the headmaster stood up and recited an incantation or something—the scenery warped and the room turned into a vast wasteland.

「You're probably wondering where is this place, right? This is a space made out of magic.」

(A space made out of magic? That reminds me..... my mentor, Eine, said that there were different kinds of magic....)

Harnessing the power of the elements of the world, gather it to one's self, that is how a magician is able to produce magic.

For example, when one gathers the fire element, they can produce a flame that can burn everything, with water, they can produce a stream that can cause a flood, wind element can also be used to create a tornado. Turning something that exists in the world and turning it into another is a miracle called magic. You cannot use magic without changing something. And to do this, you need a certain process to produce a certain effect. The process used can vary from person to person and the magic that they are using.

However, one's capability for magic is different. Magic is a miracle one can bring out depending on the amount of magic power they possess. Every resident of this world has magic power, but those that have enormous magic power, enough to be able to use magic, are quite rare.

The amount of magic power that an individual has was already decided from birth. No matter what you do, your magic power capacity will neither decrease or increase for your whole life.

In other words, only those with aptitude for magic and have vast amounts of magic power can use it. This is a field where one's effort cannot change anything.

It is quite extreme, but with magic, as long as you have enough magic power, anything is possible—even if it's to create another continent from completely nothing as long as there is an overwhelming amount of magic power.

And the process that happened to create a continent is unnecessary. No matter how big it is, it is still possible to create it using magic.

Such almighty power that is normally impossible is made possible by the miracle called magic. However, because a person does not have such quantity of magic power it is impossible to happen. Because of magic having such requirements, many people are deemed incompetent to become magicians.

That is the thing called magic.

The spatial manipulation the headmaster used to create this world cannot be called “magic” but rather “sorcery”. Moreover, the time used to create the process for magic was completed in no time at all.

Just this was enough to prove the power of the headmaster.

「Are you wondering about how the headmaster can use such magic?」
「That is simple, I am a magician, after all」

The headmaster laughed boldly. How can I possibly lose to youth like you? I feel that is what he was saying.

.....That reminds me, before Lania entered the headmaster's room,

『Headmaster, the magician of the great guild that took down the demon

lord.』

Well, he did do something like that.
Seems like he truly is a great magician.

「.....I did go together with the heroes.」

「Did you feel scared then?」

「No way. It was quite easy fighting him that we even saved a lot of time.」

I was quite surprised, but not to the extent that I was chickening out.
Rather, this seems to be getting more interesting.

「Well, this isn't the first time I met a magician.」
「Then.....why don't you show it to me—the extent of your abilities.」

The headmaster bent his knees and thrust his hands into the ground.

「Respond to my call——」

Those were only the words that I heard.
For a summoning magic, it was a fairly short incantation.

—GOGOGOGOGOGOGO. {SFX}

Is this the magic of the headmaster? It became hard to stand as the earth began to tremble—

(Yabai~tsu!) {TLN: “Not good/This is bad.” I kept it like this because I can't decide which to use.}

—Not long after—Gaga~tsu Gaga~tsu moth Gagagga~tsu Gagaga! {TLN: Can't imagine the SFX here.}

Together with a roar, the earth cracked. Before the crack can reach me, I jumped and put some distance between me and the headmaster.

「I thought you won't be attacking me?」
「Of course」

The headmaster removed his hand from the ground, stood up and said that to me with dignity.

Hey, then what the heck do you call this crack on the ground—such words resounded in my head.

「*****
*****」

An inhuman roar resounded from the depths of the earth.

(That’s impossible{no way}.....)

Gogogogogogo, Gagaga Gagagaga—. [TLN: Seriously, what are these ridiculous sfx?]

The intense shaking continues. The strange sound gradually increased as it became closer. Something was moving in the depths of the earth; no, something was approaching us from below.

Dogan! Dogan! [SFX]
ドガン！ ドガン！

Huge nail-like rocks protruded from the broken ground. The identity of the one who was below the ground was,

「*****
*****」

Along with a second roar, a dragon’s head came out of the ground. although it still hasn’t come out fully, its face was covered with protective scales made out of lumps of earth.

(Hu,Huge....)

Its forefoot was much larger than my whole body. It has a long tongue with teeth as sharp as a blade, instant death awaits those who gets bitten by it.

Dogan! Dogan! [SFX]

And the whole dragon crawled out at last.
Its length is...30 meters?

(To actually summon a dragon.....)

Dragons, said to be the strongest race in the history of the continent. The existence called the King of Creation. There seems to be only a few of them surviving in this world now a days, but to be able to fight one here in this place is really....

「GA! Headmaster- isn't too much to summon a dragon (Earth Dragon)!」

Lania's impatient voice became high pitched as she talked.

「No need to worry. I can control it quite well.」

「Th, That isn't the problem!」

「Then what is the problem? Do you see that person complaining?」

Lania who was speaking went bun~tsu. She hurriedly looked at me, glaring with eyes filled with contempt.

「What is it?」

「What's wrong with you! You might die, you know! No matter how much the headmaster is able to control it, you still——」

「Just wait and see.」

「You don't even have the proper equipment—」

I ran before Lania was even able to say something.

Chapter 4 - Adventurer Training Institute, 「the Royal Academy Jupiter」 ④ - Admission

「*****
*****」

I rushed to engage the Earth Dragon.
「Are you crazy, that thing might send you to the other side/world!」(Lania)
I heard that a dragon’s roar made their opponents lose their fighting spirit. But that might be a lie. ‘Cause now I’m,
(I can’t help but feel excited.....!)

As I closed the distance,
(First, I’ll go and test it around for a bit.....)

I concentrate magic power on my palm.
Using the fire element, I pictured a bullet made from fire—this is Devil Magic Bullet of Fire.

The moment the magic was finished, I fired the magic bullet towards the dragon.
—One shot. —Two shots. —Three shots.

All of them hit. It didn’t even have the intention of dodging it in the first place; its huge body didn’t move an inch.

The rock scales covering its body acted as an armor against physical attacks. The strong image it has when it came out of the ground isn’t just for show, there does not seem to be any damage to it whatsoever.

[TLN: The machine said that it has a firm image, so i changed it to a strong one instead.]

(It can be said that this is expected, but for it to actually take no damage at all....)

I gave myself a bit more speed and cut down the distance some more.
「Now you can understand how strong is the defense of the Earth Dragon.」
(Headmaster)

Though he was hidden behind the Earth Dragon, the Headmaster’s voice still

reached me.

Of course, I did not attack without thinking. Because of the rock-like scale covering the body of the Earth Dragon, damage does not pass through the parts which you commonly attack.

—Therefore, I cut down distance between us.

「Ho~o..... Such a tremendous amount of magic power.」(Headmaster)

I was concentrating magic power into my palm while running.

Once again, I used the power of the fire element.

Attracted by the enormous amount of magic power in my palm, it formed a huge mass of flame.

This is one of the magic I am most proficient at.

However, it is just a simple blow using a huge chunk of fire.

But depending on the amount of magic power used, even such a simple magic can produce an attack with overwhelming destructive power.

The Earth Dragon used its forefoot in an attempt to halt my advance.

But because of its huge size, even though it contains destructive power, its attacks were truly slow—I avoided it as I plunged towards the bosom of the dull-witted dragon.

(O~tsu—this guy!) [TLN: Irritated speech ‘O~tsu—— koitsu wa!’]

I’m really lucky.

To land in the bosom of the Earth Dragon.

Is it just the area of the stomach?

In the body of the dragon covered by defensive scales, there is always the absolute weak spot somehow or another,

[TLN: Basically, he was thinking that there are other weak spots except for the stomach and that is the bosom or chest of the dragon.]

「——Take this!!!!!!」(Mars)

[TLN: I took the liberty to change it from ‘eat this’ to current.]

I nailed down the condensed ‘Flame Explosion’ hard on the barren, earthlike skin of the dragon which was not covered in scales.

[TLN: Flame Bomb is the literal translation of 爆炎. Liberty of changing it to Flame Explosion. Accepting a better suggestion.]

—DOGAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!

[illegible]

(tsu~)

My whole body was baked by the hot wind and it burns as it is.

This time I used the element of water—which I used as defense magic.

The armor of water completely protected me from the heat—as well as protecting my body.

My body was blown by a considerable distance.

But this could prove quite useful as well.

DOG0000000000000000 can be heard—as the Earth Dragon fell.

(If I was there, I would be under its belly by now.)

However, since it yielded a result, even if there was a lot of risks, so I'm gonna stop complaining for now.

「Ho.....」(Headmaster)

Even though it's different from what I expected, I still did not leave quite a bad impression.

(Still, this quite anti-climatic.....Or is this already the extent of the dragon's

Lania said in a slightly stronger voice,

「But——」(Mars)

「For what purpose did you come to this academy? It is not to fight, right? The Entrance Exam has already ended. If you understand, please accept it.」(Lania)

I know she was right but it's very hard to accept things as it is.

「Let's just say you'll continue fighting, won't you be called a battle addict in the classes you'll be taking? Would you like that? Won't you get embarrassed? 'This guy is a battle addict.' Imagine yourself being known by the students that way.

No one will ever approach you, you know! Even if you are a student of the academy, you would never be able to make any friends in that way....」(Lania)

「~Tsu.....」(Mars)

(Just what is with this instructor.....!)

「And the Headmaster is still the Headmaster. To summon an Earth Dragon to fight students. Even if it's just playing around, isn't your type of playing a bit too much?」(Lania)

「Don't say that. It has been a long time since I met such a lively young man. A prank of this extent is still excusable.」(Headmaster)

「It isn't! If you keep this up, can you still call yourself the Headmaster of this academy? All of the students will surely be interested in Mars if you continue. As for transferring to this academy, won't he attract the attention of the other academies as well?」(Lania)

「Mu~u....that would be unfortunate. I still want to keep his existence a secret. In addition, I am quite fond of him, you see.」(Headmaster)

Then the Headmaster struck both palms against the ground like he was kneading bread, the dragon who was just summoned disappeared, and the space distorted and we went back to the Headmaster's room.

「Mars, I know you aren't satisfied with this, as well. Let's continue this on your final examination. I, myself, will keep you occupied by then.」(Headmaster)

The Headmaster gave me that suggestion. It was a shame I was not able to defeat the dragon, but it seems that fighting the Headmaster will be much more interesting than fighting the dragon.

「.....I understand.」(Mars)

So, I'll let it go for now.

「Umu...Then, Mars-kun, congratulations to your admission! We welcome you to

the Academy!」(Lania)

I tightly grasped the Headmaster's out-stretched hand.

「By the way Headmaster, am I already good enough to take the final exam?

How about I take it tomorrow?」(Mars) [MTL: Excited much?]

I was intending to say that seriously but,

「Fu-Fuha~tsu, Fuhahahawahahawahaha!」(Headmaster)

「.....Haa.....It seems you're quite troublesome...in various ways...」(Lania)

Why the Headmaster was laughing, why Lania seemed like she was amazed, I truly can't understand the reason why.

Chapter 5 - The Dormitory of the Jupiter Institute

① Encounter with Nirfa

At the time when the school entrance examination is completed successfully, we went down to the first floor,

“It is fine to start taking lessons starting from tomorrow?”

Lania made such a confirmation.

“It’s not a problem. By the way Lania—”

“I’ll say one thing, within the institute call me instructor. At least, there must be some distinction between myself and the students.”

“Understood. By the way, instructor-dono, where should I be staying?”

“The institutes students stay within the school dormitory. I’ll guide you now so follow me.”

Because she said that, I followed her. When leaving the institute, we turn right immediately and proceed to go straight ahead.

After walking a while, several buildings come into view.

“The big building there is the library. That way is the church.”

At an adventurer training institution, having a church is surprising.

“ ‘Why does an adventurer training institute have a church?’ is what your face is asking. ”

It seems that it was reflected on my face.

“I think it’s a natural question. But the story is quite simple. The sister is an instructor within the institute.”

“Is there graduates switching over to being a sister here?”

“Of course not. The healing magic of a clergyman is top ranked.

Therefore I invited one as an instructor in the academy.

In addition, the neutral position of a clergyman means they aren’t involved in

battles between nations. In other words, it is an issue of peace and order within the academy.

In the occasion of a war, it becomes proof of this place's neutrality and it becomes a high possibility that this place won't be invaded.

The church is all throughout the world and is not limited to this country.

Even if you invade the church, you will antagonize believers around the world.

Unless you were an extreme idiot, you'd avoid that, wouldn't you agree?

Recently, the situation has been calm and there hasn't been a large scale war for the last few decades, but a war not happening cannot be definite.

The academy must also be prepared for it.

The deployment of the sister, is more than simply as a part of the education."

(I see.....)

Since this is an adventurer training institution, does the the academy also take responsibility for protecting the students too?

If that's the case, you can nod at the fact that preparation for the worst case scenario has been done.

"The teachers of the adventurer training institution are actually having lots of difficulties."

"And taking on this troublesome task is the job of a teacher. There are many problems when it comes to nurturing adventurers."

Somehow or another, one can imagine the problems.

Thinking about it, talented individuals continue to turn up in great numbers at the adventurer's guild, naturally the answer is they would exceed necessity.

If there are more talented personnel in the country, the national power is increased.

The largest adventurer guild being a match for a thousand warriors to the extent where rumor rise.

This nurturing of adventurers can actually be taken as a similar meaning to the mass production of battle tools, if you change your point of view.

“Well, even if there were any problems, my purpose would remain in tact.”

What I need to do has already been decided.

“To make friends. I think? Haha, I think that’s a good aim. This is a competitive society so I think it may be hard, but I still think you can make good friends that you can trust. Plus, I personally think that children should just rejoice in their youth, rather than think about difficult stuffs.”

“Youth.....?”

Up until now, I have had no relationships, will this institute get me my own experience?

“Plus, it’s that! Not just friends, but also the more intimate one, you know.”

“Eh? Even though you say that, I don’t understand what you’re saying at all?

“Don’t fool me~!”

She began tapping my shoulder. Then, Lania gave a surprised smile while turning to face me, as if to tease me.

What exactly is she trying to say?

“But, the dormitories for boys and girls are separated properly. Disappointing.”

Now, after saying that, she tapped on my back.

Being a slightly more intense tap this time, I almost coughed out. Though, as compensation, I finally understand what Lania is trying to say.

“Yep. Since you will be living in this school with the other students from now on, even if you don’t want to, you will be meeting up with them everyday. When that happens, you will meet people who you can get along with. Our school do not have the stubborn school tradition where we would meddle with love between the students, so as long as you keep it in moderation, there will be no punishment. That’s why make sure you go out there and rejoice in your youth!”

To actually be worried about someone’s lover, is she a grandmother? What a

roundabout way to say.

(But... a lover....)

Though I never thought about it, it is true that it might not be bad at all.

While having the possibility to create a family with my lover, I, who have no relatives, to be able to have someone like a partner to spend the days together is something I can't say I never longed for.

"Well, we have reached. This is the male dormitory."

Before I know it, we have reached the dormitory.

As if lying about the adorning appearance of the school, the dormitory was a wooden building, with a view that calms people down.

Of course, since this building was made for a large amount of people in mind, if compared to a normal house, it is rather big, but it isn't unnecessarily grand. Basically, it gives an impression of being built of the simplicity for living.

"It's normal"

"We can't expend money on facilities unrelated to nurturing adventurers. By the way, there are no keys for the rooms, so please be careful."

That fact there is no key makes it sound rather dangerous....

I wonder if it shouldn't be a problem, considering this place as within school premises.

"Do I have a room?"

"Yeah, your move-in application has already been made, so I believe it should have already been prepared."

And we entered the dormitory.

Then,

"I have been waiting!"

We were greeted by a lively and cheerful female voice.

"Nirfa, this is the transfer student I was talking about."

The female that Lania called "Nirfa" and greeted us, was having a rather

strange appearance.

“I understand! It’s Mars-san, right? I am Nirfa Maximilli. I shall be responsible for any assistance, so please treat me well.”

“Ahh, I shall be in your care.”

While saying that, I just couldn’t stop being bothered by her attire.

Though she is not cooking, she is wearing a white apron-like dress, and the cloth band on her head.... seems to be standing out a lot for a white hair accessory.

I wonder if her age is similar to mine, or younger by a few years?

With drooping eyes and hair of uniform length on both sides, and also an estimation of height of 150cm, it feels like her young look is being fostered in that sense.

“She is a maid”

(A maid...)

I do hear before that they are servants employed to assist the daily life of some of the nobles and royalty, but I wasn’t expecting that the day that I will be assisted by one would come.

“She will be in charge of your overall daily life. Though he might cause a few problems, don’t give up on him, okay?”

as Lania said something nosy.

“Certainly. Then, please allow me to guide you to your room.”

Nirfa replied with a huge smile.

The building has 5 stories, and it seems to have a rooftop as well.

With each storey having 20 rooms, the first, second and a portion of the third years are using the double-bed rooms from the first storey to the third storey. Last few floors are single-bed rooms for use of the rest of the third year students.

With a total capacity of a hundred and sixty people, the total amount of students in the dormitory including me reaches a number of a hundred and

forty-seven.

“Lania, why does the third years get to have single-bed rooms?”

“This school goes by the principle of strength. So the system is made to give favourable treatment to those with greater strength”

“Aren’t there those that are even more skilled than the third-years?”

“Of course, there are exceptions. Just that, the third-years are talents that had survived the training from the institutions for those 3 years. Though most of them are not geniuses, there are still a mass of elites. So, let me ask you a simple question. A problem occurred when living in the dormitory, and in a situation where a battle of ten second-years against ten third years will occur, which side do you think will win?”

“If there aren’t anyone with tremendous capabilities, it should be the third-years.”

“That’s correct. You shouldn’t need to worry so much, but if you are going to be with a group, it is important that you should stay harmonious and refrain from troubles.”

“....you say harmonious.”

A troublemaker in a group would usually be judged.

“But in situation where one can take on ten third-year student that that is fine as well. Since there is no one that can do that now, this place is provided to the third-years. It’s just that.”

“I see. It’s good that it is simple.”

If it’s that, I should be able to get on somehow.

The conversation stopped at a really good time, where the leading Nirfa stopped in her tracks.

“This is Mars-san’s room.”

We were brought to the right interior of the third floor.

If it’s the third storey, it should be a double-bed room right?

“Is the person in the room in?”

“Yep. Lania-san have anxiously requested for a double-bed room for the recently admitted Mars-san, saying that it was better for you.”

“FuFu~n! Be grateful for my anxiety.”

Though she was sticking her chest out proud, it is thankful for me who is coming to this school to look for friends.

“That’s true. I am really thankful.”

“When you say that, it sounds rather sarcastic. Please do become a more thankful and obedient kid.”

(Are you my parent or what...)

Though you say that, I was really trying to be thankful, you know.

“The person living with you, Elicia-san, is in the same second-year course. She is presently in school taking lessons, but permission have already been given so please do not worry. ”

“I got it. Thank you, Nirfa.”

“Please don’t mention it. To serve the master is the job of the maid. Then, I will be preparing dinner, so if you would excuse me. If there is anything, please do call out to me.”

With a bow as if from a modelled standard, Nirfa left the area.

(So at this place, the preparation of meals is being made by her)

Then, she is holding on to my survival needs.

Nirfa doesn’t seem to be able to take on the opponents on her own though.

“Hey, you can’t do a thing if you are going to stand here and stare. Enter your room.

I still have stuff to tell and ask you.”

Without asking the permission from the master of the room, Lania opened the door and entered the room.

Chapter 6 - The Dormitory of the Jupiter Institute ②

Impression of Lania

“This is tidied up rather well.”

If this goes on, Lania might actually search the room’s owner’s, Elishia, belongings.

For the sake of stopping Lania, I rushed into the room.

Though the room is slightly confined for a room for two, with desks and beds, it does seem pleasant if they do provide the necessities for daily lifestyle.

“Lania, don’t go searching people’s belongings.”

“I won’t search! Hey, even if I am like this, I am still a teacher here. There is no way I would do that right?”

“If it’s you, there is that possibility.”

“You... I wonder how do you see me as a person?”

“How do I see you as....”

Being said that, I was fixedly observing Lania.

Right now, she is in the room, lowering her hips and crossing her legs on the double-level beds.

(Now that I think about it, I have never paid attention to her appearance before.)

To start off, the most prominent feature of her would be that red hair. The gorgeous long hair, that reaches down to her hips, sway away everytime she moves.

While that red hair of hers is already quite eye-catching, another feature that draws people’s attention is her eyes.

Its deep red color is like a ruby and also a color that seems to suck everything that looks at it.

Her inborn features are already like the manifestation of being conspicuous, but her clothing is what makes her even more eye-catching.

Though the hood was put on, the lower clothing is something perfunctory to

call a clothing.

Her chest is pretty much covered by a white cloth-like clothing.

That covered area is bulging in a rather grand way.

Her stomach is also pretty much exposed.

With these, rather than being a teacher, it feels more like a guy-tempting prostitute.

Though the lower clothing is a short pants that emphasize on easy movement, the skin is exposed too much.

It does shows her active personality, but, as teacher that guides students, it seems rather unreasonable.

For such a lady, there is one word that can illustrate it and that is,

“.....an exhibitionist?”

Buushh....., it seems to be the sound of Lania’s blood vessels bursting.

“You want to die?”

She started turning to glare directly at me.

“It’s a pity, I don’t have the intention of letting you kill me, you know?”

“Ha.... Seriously. I wonder if I brought in a outrageous student into the institute.”

After sighing, she turned to face me again.

“Let’s set aside how do you see me as a person for the time being, so I am going to proceed with the conversation. In this institute, the church bell will ring at fixed intervals. The classes and the dormitory’s schedule in the school are conducted by judging and matching the timing of the ring of the bell.”

“Heeee..... Since we are living as a group, our sense of time interval is being unified to some extent.”

“That’s correct. If it’s not, don’t you think that it is possible that no one might come for lessons? ”

Lania laughed with a sense of self-mocking.

I wonder if she experienced something like that in the past.

“I will continue the topic. You can have your meals in this dormitory’s canteen everyday.

Then, regarding the timing, the first would be on the ring of the single chime in the morning.

That signifies the opening of the canteen. After that, the next chime would be the time for breakfast

Do take note that if you missed the chime for breakfast too much, the canteen would be closed so basically you will be skipping your breakfast in that case. Do reach the school before the third chime rings. That chime marks of the start of lessons. The chime is set to ring for every start and end of each lessons.

By the time the chime rings for the end of the final lesson, it should be around the time when the sun is setting.”

“In other words, a third of a day is pretty much occupied by lessons.”
I have never been living a life where my time is being restricted after all....
It feels kinda constrained when your time is being restricted.

“At the time the sun has totally set, the chime would sound again.
That will be the time for dinner at the canteen.
Similar to the time for breakfast, the time before the next chime will be dinner time.

And regarding the bath, it’s basically open throughout the day, but hot bath is only available at night.”

“Got it.”

After assenting, I contemplate the information that was spoken.

“Next, you have been admitted to the second-year course.
Normally, it’s fine even if you were admitted to the first year course, but I don’t really know your age.

In terms of strength, though it’s quite unsure which class you should be admitted to, as expected, I would not think it would be the first year course after all.

As you will only enjoy a year of school life if you entered as a third-year, I admitted to you to the second year course on my judgement.”

Unexpectedly decided rather appropriately.

“I have left the itinerary of the lessons and all teaching materials on the desk, so make sure you check it later. And I will also come to fetch you tomorrow just

in case”

Lania pointed at the desk that was arranged to the right of the wall. It seems like the desk right in front of me is the desk.

“And then, something I want you to remember is regarding the Institution Battle Competition between the schools’ adventurer candidate.

Once every year, there is a match against the other schools. The period is in August.

Today is at the beginning of May, so in another 3 months time. You will be chosen as one of the selection members. ”

“Selection member? Me?”

“Yeah. Did I not tell you about it when I invited you to the school?”

Huh? Though Lania is leaning her head to the side, I should be the one doing that.

“I am hearing that for the first time.”

“What? Really? I believed I told you that the reason for recommending you was hoping to add your strength as part of the Institution Battle Competition.”

“Nope, I never heard that.”

I wasn’t expecting such a reason, even though I do know that without any merit, there wouldn’t be a teacher who would invite a unknown jobless person to the school.

“What is this Institution Battle Competition all about in detailed?”

“Various things. There are just pure battles, competitions of combat techniques but let’s talk about it another time after the actual members have been selected. By the way, the purpose of the competition is for letting the Guild, to begin with, and other agencies to grasp the strength of the adventurer candidates. In other words, the candidates with the most remarkable results are pretty much promised a future. Of course, if more students from a certain school is achieving that, the reputation of the school will also rise. Our school’s result last year was in the bottom half, 6th out of 10 schools. If possible, I would love to see it reach the top three rankings this year.”

“Top three school?”

“Yeah, I know it’s quite harsh. It’s nothing more than a target.”

It seems like Lania have no idea what is it that I wanted to say.

“We might as well win it, don’t you agree?”

As long as it’s a fight, I have no intention of losing.

“I have been raised by my Master Aine ‘It’s natural to win as long as it’s a battle. It’s to not only just win, but to get for the best result’.”

Since I have been raised this way, it’s only natural to get the best result.

Lania give a wry smile towards my answer,

“True, I will anticipating your achievement.”

“Gotcha, Leave it to me.”

I nodded with confidence.

My words might have been taken as being overconfident, since I have no idea the strength of my opponents, but seriously, no matter how monstrous the opponents can be, I don’t feel like I will lose.

Besides, Lania invited me because she believed in my strength, so I can’t let myself betrayed that.

Three months later, I will certainly achieve the best result. That’s what I have decided.

“To some extent, I believed I have told you the rules of schooling lifestyle in general. Any questions? ”

“Two of them. First, about the clothes though, the students in this school are all wearing the exact same clothings, is that right?”

Though to be exact, males and females are slightly different, but when I entered the school, all the students seem to be wearing the exact same thing.

“Ah.. Regarding the clothings.

Sorry about it but, I will bring your uniform directly to you tomorrow.

A uniform is like a proof that you are a student in this school.

It’s okay if it’s in the dormitory, but make sure you wear your uniform when you come to the school.”

(I see.....)

The reason why I was mistaken for a thief by the elf in the afternoon, could

have been because I wasn't wearing a uniform.

Now that I think of it, that make sense.

It's true that to identify trespassers, unifying the clothing does seem like the fastest method.

"I got it. And.... One very important thing."

There is something I do not know all this time.

Today, I really want to get this clear once and for all.

"What is it?"

"How old are you?"

When I first met her, she gave an image of a really young lady, but she does have some portions that make her reek of being an aunt.

There are quite a lot of people who aren't proportional from their looks and ages.

Since she was working as a teacher in this school, to some extent, I wonder if she is rather aged?

"From my prediction, it's around the early thirties....and....!?"

In that instant, my face was grazed with something like a sharp knife.

(Knife...? Nope, is it magic?)

In that attack, there is an obvious sense of killing intent with it.

But, I understood from that reaction.

"...from that anger, you are within the twenties."

"Don't analyse that calmly! I am still in my early twenties! Mars, listen here! I give you one advice! Don't go around asking ladies over their twenties their ages. You will shrink your lifespan. "

Lania smiled by far the most gentlest smile ever. But at the same time, a pressure never felt before is being released.

"I..I will engrave that life lesson into my heart."

For females, it seems topics regarding to age are serious stuff.

Master Aine don't seem to mind such things at all... Nope, to begin with, I might not have asked Master's age before.

“Seriously..... Do you have anything else you wish to know?”

I replied to Lania whose eyes are glaring with a message of “Don’t step onto another landmine, you got it!”,

“It’s fine.”

I conveyed that there shouldn’t be a problem.

“I see.just in case, I will say this. I don’t intend say anything in detail, regarding how you spend your schooling lifestyle. You should enjoy the lifestyle to whatever you desire. To live for friends, to live for lover, it’s your choice.”

Smiling with a huge grin.

Lania left my room after leaving that remark.

(Enjoy the academy life....)

For someone like me who is inexperienced to such cohabitation life, I have genuine doubts on how I should go about enjoying it, but, I am really getting excited now.

Ever since Master Aine died, I have been living a life of no purpose and days of just laziness. But now, I am wrapped by a sense of heightened sensation. I can’t help but look forward to the experiences that I will encounter in schooling life from now on.

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Chapter 7 - The Dormitory of the Jupiter Institute ③

The First Friend

The chime for dinner have not been sound.

I, who was rather free, was checking out tomorrow's lesson materials, when<Gachaa>.. the sound of the door knob came.

Then,

"Oh, you are already here."

From the opened door came a young boy whose high-pitched voice seems to have not matured.

"Are you my roommate?"

"Yep. Elisha Haynest of the Second Year. You can call me Elisha. You are of the same second year course right? I will be in your care from now on."

Elisha hold out his right hand, seeking for a hand-shake.

"Ah. I'm Mars Ruina. You can also just call me Mars. I will be in your care too."

After replying with my name, I firmly hold Elisha's hand. Though his hand felt kinda small for a guy, Elisha also firmly returned the grip. He's quite the charming guy.

(... But... his body line seems rather slender...)

Is he eating properly?

His height is shorter than me by around ten centimetres, while having a small build. His silver eyes that gazed upon me gave the image of dignity and intelligence. No matter who, they will see a properly arranged appearance with features of neutrality.

"Is something the matter?"

"No, I just thought that you seem like a girl. "

"Ahaha.... I hear that rather often, but I am a boy, okay?"

From his behavior of shrinking back, I can understand how much he have

been told the same thing again and again.

Thinking that Elisha was a girl is not something that only I thought of.

(Well... it can't be helped that there are such misunderstandings with that appearance.)

If what he is wearing is female clothings, I don't think anyone would doubt him as a girl.

"I wonder if I grow taller, the misunderstanding might die down?"

"It's also possible that it is due to the long hair, right?"

Elisha had tied his hair of artificial-like beauty in a bundle with a string.

It's usually not really appropriate to call a guy beautiful, but for Elisha, there don't seem to have any problems using that description.

Though there seems to be many girls that have beautiful hair that doesn't requires grooming, I believe Elisha's hair has a beauty that can't be surpassed.

".... I don't really want to cut my hair, you know. Even if I am mistaken for my gender due to it."

Though it's weird to say this, but the figure of Elisha saying that while listlessly touching his hair can only be seen as girl.

Even if you say he is a guy, eight or nine out of ten would not believe that, while shaking his head. But, even though he wanted to be seen as a guy, to cut such a lovely-looking hair is truly a waste.

"It's fine not to cut it, right? It's such a beautiful hair after all. If you say it's a hindrance, then I won't stop you, but if you do not wish to cut it, then there is no need to do it. There are many ways if you wish to be seen as a guy after all."

"....."

Have I said anything weird?

Elisha's eyes was looking at me wide-opened, as if looking at a mysterious object.

"Ah.. No, I was just shocked as it's the first time a friend said something like this. But I am really happy when you say that. Thank you."

“Friend...?”

Could it be that he was referring to me?

“That was my intention, but am I being over-familiar suddenly?”

(What.....)

For some reason, we are already friends.

(I didn't know that..... you can become friends so suddenly....)

Without any effort, the aim of making friends has been achieved.

“Could I have been a bother?”

“N.. No.. That's not true. Or rather, I couldn't ask for more on my end. Elisha, would you be my friend?”

“Ahahaha, you don't have to ask. I already say it, haven't I? I already have that intention. Once again, I will be in your care, Mars”

With a smile, Elisha again seeks me for a hand-shake.

The smiling Elisha is really cute like a girl. However, I can't say it out loud as a matter of course.

Even if the expression he displays is extremely fitting.

I hold out my hand and firmly gripped his hand in return.

So like this, I made my very first friend.

*

The chime rang soon after that.

“Mars, if you like, do you want to have your meal?”

Using Elisha's words as a start, we went down to the canteen.

After exiting the room, the corridor is nosily filled with students, going down the stairs in small groups.

“When it gets to meal time, everyone makes their move instantly. As the school lessons consist mostly of practical skills, our stomach are rather empty by then. ”

As if the surroundings will continue while going down the stairs, Elisha made

such a remark.

In reality, when we reach the canteen, that remark was proven by the many students filled up the area.

As expected, the highest ratio of races in the dormitory seems to be human, but I could identify the the Tree-people, Elf, and the Wolf-people, Werewolf, the Smithing-people, Drawf, the small people, Hobbit and various other races.

“Various races are co-existing here”

“Yep. I was shocked when I first got here. But, if you think about, it’s natural. This is not an institution for humans. An institution for Adventurer after all. It’s an assembly of excellent students, regardless of whatever race you might be.”

Lania seems to have said something like that just now. If you didn’t like it, you can use force.

A nurturing institution whose principle is “Might is Right”.

So including racial problems, the use of force is allowed to settle them.

“Though there are some problems, I believe it was implemented after considering the possible repercussions. Rather than that, let’s go for our meal.”

Elisha pointed out the canteen’s counter.

“You can see that counter where everyone is receiving the food, right? You will first receive a tray there, then from 3 different choices, you will pick one.”

At the counter, Nirfa is there, carrying food one after the other. There hangs a signboard with the following menu,

[Today’s Recommendations]

Salt sauté lemon butter sauce chicken (TL: Doesn’t sound very appetizing!?)
(Ru: YESITDOES!)

Boiled Tomato White-fleshed Fish

Mutton Stew, filled with plenty of vegetables.

Though they are foods that I have heard of, I have never eaten them before in reality.

From the start, I have never been picky with my food. In terms of food that I

have prepared are monster meat that I have hunted and grilled, wild plants that I have picked and eaten, pretty much food that are extremely ill-prepared. But, the food that are appearing here are nice looking and give a sense of high classiness.

As the students queueing at the counter received their food in succession, our turn came shortly.

“Ah, Mars-san, Elisha-san”

Though Nirfa was busily passing food, after noticing me, she stopped her actions, and specially took the time to greet us.

“Welcome. Both of you are already getting along as roommate, aren’t you?”

“Yeah, we became friends.”

“That’s a splendid thing. Then, as a commemoration for both of your friendship, I shall present a special service.”

“Even me?”

“Yes, of course. For now, please choose a cuisine.”

“Then, I shall take the stew.”

“Certainly. How about Mars?”

“All looks really good, but what’s Nirfa’s recommendation?”

“All have been made with confidence but, if I really have to choose one, I would recommend the chicken to Mars-san. As you have been just admitted today, I believe you should be tired so the chicken and the lemon in the sauce that have the effect to recover the fatigue from the muscles would be the food that fits today’s Mars-san. And, for the staple food, I would recommend rice.”

And, an instant reply.

Exactly the image of a Maid — A Maid above all maids.

From now on, I shall call her the Perfect Maid in my heart.

“If the Perfect Maid says that, then let’s go with that.”

“Excuse me?”

“....sorry, please forget about it.”

I said that unconsciously.

(I have to be cautious from now on....)

As recommended, a tray with chicken dressed with lemon sauce was brought to the counter.

“Then, this will be service given to both of you. Please enjoy the after-meal dessert.”

A bag of cookie was placed on top of both Elisha’s and my tray.

“Uwa... Thank you very much. I will have it later.”

“Cookie...”

How nostalgic. Before I arrived at a stage where I am aware of my surroundings, there was a time when Master Aine bought a cookie.

For me, eating is just an action for the sake of living through the intake of nutrients so I don’t really have an interest in the indulgence of food. But on that day, after being told ‘Give it a taste’, I ate the cookie and was enveloped in a sweet and fortunate feeling.

(Now that I think of it, I believe she bought something like that on a whim.)

“Could it be that you dislike sweet stuff?”

Most likely being bothered about me being silent, Nirfa looked worriedly at me.

“... nope, it’s not true. Thanks for the cookie.”

“No problem!”

Nirfa satisfyingly smiled after receiving my reply.

We randomly looked and sat on empty seats after receiving our food.

“Then, shall we start?”

Elisha join his hands while saying ‘Itadakimasu’

I followed his example in joining my hands and started eating.

Using a knife, I cut the chicken into sizes where fork can easily facilitate eating, and brought one into my mouth.

“...!? Thi, This is.....”

To the extent it doesn’t seem like chicken, the juiciness of the meat juice is

satisfying the insides of the mouth while the lemon sauce gives refreshing flavour that erase the scent of the oil.

In the sauce, it's not just lemon, but also... salt?

The taste should have been adjusted by multiple seasonings.

Most likely, the sauce has been tuned to suit the chicken.

Just a mouthful, I discover that one can apply many ideas' from the food.

I wonder if this is influenced by the ingredients?

However, to be able to prepare such high-grade ingredients for the students' share, the requirements of funds should be quite high.....

I am rather curious on where did they attain such ingredients.

"Do the students here eat these normally?

"Ahaha, I can understand that Mars is rather surprised. Nirfa-san is really proficient in cooking. From the rumors, it seems that she had been invited to work as the head chief in the royal palace."

I don't find that weird, if it's true.

The values towards food will change if you are going to eat food like these.

Just thinking that I will be able to eat these food everyday from now on, my life feels so much more rich.

"I wish to try the other food."

"If you like, do you want to try my stew?"

"Is it fine?"

"Yep, it's fine. Ah, but the spoon..."

"Hn? Then can I borrow Elisha's spoon?"

As I reach out with my hand,

"...!?"

Elisha was astonished of something that his body went 'Bikku', shaking, and the spoon he was holding dropped on the top of the tray.

"Is something the matter?"

"E, a, u, uun. So, sorry, it's nothing. T...the spoon dropped so it's best not to use

it, i think.”

“Even if I did dropped, it’s just on the tray, isn’t it fine?”

“....A..a..u..un, I got it.”

I found a sense of discomfort from Elisha’s embarrassed look and also his flushed face.

Was there a problem with what I have said?

Though hesitating, Elisha hand over his spoon to me.

And then, he keep looking at me intermittently for some reason.

Don’t tell me....

“Elisha, if there is any problem, please tell me. If you don’t want to, there is no need to give me your food.”

“Huh?”

“It’s really not amusing to have your food supply diminish after all”

For a day’s worth of food, there needs to be a sufficient compensation for it.

Usually, dealings with food are made with money, but right now, I have nothing to pay Elisha with.

“Though you are likely being considerate that I just got admitted, since I do not have any compensation to pay up, you should be the one eating them.”

“E... n..no, that’s wrong! I am not bothered by that...”

Thinking that Elisha might try to say something, but in the end, he stopped while averting my face.

For some reason, his face is flushed again.

“In any case, Mars should just eat it without being bothered!”

(Somehow, i think he is getting rather worked up...?)

“...Is that so? Then, I will thankfully have it. ”

Pakku. A mouthful of stew was immediately chewed on from the borrowed spoon.

“It’s delicious....”

“Right?”

Overwhelmed by the deliciousness, I lost my words, while Elisha turned to me smiling.

Well, I did predict it would be good, but not till this extent.

It's like a soup, but having a richness far beyond a soup would have.

The taste of cream wrap around the tongue and continues to fill the area.

The soup that is ingrained with the taste and texture of taro and mutton makes eating an enjoyable experience.

"To be able to taste two of such delicious food in a day, today is really blessed day."

"It's so delicious that you think that way right?"

"I really realized the importance of food. I really have to thank Elisha too. I will return this gratitude."

"That shouldn't be to me, but to Nirfa who made the food."

"Even then, Elisha shared your own portion in reality. Though I wouldn't call it my expression of gratitude, if anything happen, tell me any time. I will surely help you."

Saying that, I return the spoon to Elisha but,

"..."

Elisha stayed silent, just looking at me.

Just that, those eyes seems hollow and lack of aspiration somewhere.

However, that was just for an instant, so I thought it must have been my imagination.

".... I see. When the time comes, I will do that."

Elisha smiled while receiving the spoon.

"Come to think of it, did you go to another institution before you come here?"

"Nope, I have never been to a special training institution before."

After all, before coming here, I was jobless.

"I see. You should have heard of it, but the transfer student to this institution is already rare, you know."

“Seems like it. In my case, though I do feel rather special, I just happen to get to know a teacher and ended up admitting to the school.”

“Hee... You were recommended, right? Though I was told after being informed that a new transfer student is coming from Nirfa-san.”

“Ah. I wonder if recommended students are so rare?”

“Yeah... In our second-year course, there is no one who got in through recommendation. So...”

When Elisha was about to say something,

“Hee.. Just when I thought I have never seen you before, so you are the transfer student.”

Suddenly, a tray was placed on my right side.

Chapter 8 - The Dormitory of the Jupiter Institute ④

To Protect a Friend

I confirmed the other party's appearance by shifting my sight.

"Sail..."

The werewolf guy whom Elisha called as Sail, settles down next to me without permission.

"Someone you know?"

".....Yeah. We are the same class."

For someone in the same class, they do not look to be friendly with each other.

Elisha hide his face, and his voice was gloomy.

"You can't do that, Elisha.... Taking the fact that the transfer student knows nothing, you were actually trying to get friendly with him?"

"....."

What's with this guy?

Just when he interrupted our conversation, he started making such obvious sarcasm.

Why is Elisha not making a single complain?

"To get involved with degenerates like you, even the transfer student might be infected by your incompetence, you know?"

As anticipated from the atmosphere, it seems like both of their relationships are the worst.

"Hey~ transfer student, it's best not to be involved with someone like him?"

While oppressively getting over-familiar, the student by the name of Sail place his arm around my shoulder.

"Since you just came here, you most likely have no idea but this guy...."

“It’s unpleasant, please shut up for a bit.”

“Huh.... E...Eh?AAaaaaa, Uahhhhhhhhh!”

I moved myself to Sail’s back and constricted his arm.

(Even his grieving appearance is so unpleasant....)

Due to that, the students in the canteen gathered their sights on us.

“You are so exaggerated from just getting your arm constricted.”

“Aa, Aaaaaaaaaah, St...Stop... Please Stop it!”

“If you want me to stop, then apologize to Elisha”

After saying that, I constricted his arm even more.

“Uwahh, I.. I got it. Sorry Sorryyyy. I apologize, I will apologizewww!”

“Do you really feel that way from the bottom of your heart?”

“Gyaaaaaaaa, ple...please forgive me, I was bad, I am sorry!”

Either it’s due to the fear of the pain or really apologizing from the bottom of his heart, it’s really hard to judge.

“M..Mars! It’s fine already! I am no longer bothered by it!”

“Is it? Hey, you better thank Elisha for his benevolence.”

Called upon by Elisha, I reluctantly let Sail go.

“chi.... Even though I call you out of kindness! Damn it! You better remember this!”

“You are such a typical small-fry..”

“.....!!!!!!”

With an ugly face warped from anger, Sail glared at me, but in the end, he left the canteen unable to do anything.

“No matter how delicious the food is, if there are garbage like him, it’s no longer enjoyable.”

“.....Sorry, Mars. Because of me.....”

Though I have no idea what Elisha is apologizing for, I did said “eating is no

longer enjoyable”, so it’s possible that Elisha might have felt responsible for it.

“It’s not Elisha’s fault. Come on, let’s finish the food before it gets cold”

“.....yeah.”

Still feeling bad about it, Elisha smiled frailly.

From then on in the canteen, Elisha was rather absent minded, even if he was spoken to, all he does is nod without much of a reaction.

*

Even after dinner and returning back to the room, Elisha’s facial expression is still gloomy.

Sitting on the bed, he hid his face, not talking at all.

Since it’s a double-layered bed, I wonder if I will be taking the top one?

(Should I verify?)

I can’t find a topic to talk about anyway, this came just nice.

“Hey Elisha, I can use the top-level bed right, right?”

From what I see, both the top and the bottom bed are all as good as new, without a single stain and crease on them.

“Ah... Un, could it be that you prefer the bottom?”

“No, either of it is fine. Well then, I will be using the top one.”

I climbed up to the top level bed, and laid down directly.

The fluffy feeling is inducing drowsiness.

Likely the sheet has been air firmly, the smell of the sun can be felt.

I feel like just going to sleep just like that, from the comfortness.

“....Mars”

A frail sound was heard directly below me.

“Uhm?”

“Are you not going to ask me?.... regarding what happen just now?”

“I will listen to whatever you want to say. If it’s not, then I won’t listen.”

“...sorry.”

“You don’t have to apologize, you know?”

“...thanks.”

“Orh. If it’s words of gratitude, I will just take it.”

Elisha’s voice is starting to return to its original cheerfulness.

I am not sure what happen in this institute, but Elisha is Friend Number One.

If you are feeling there, I really want to cheer you up.

My master also said this.

‘If you make a friend, protect him/her with your life.’

‘If you do that, your friend would also protect you.’

Until now, I do not have anyone I can call a friend or comrades, but right now, I have at least one here.

That’s why if required, I will use all my power to protect.

“Hey Mars, although it’s not due to gratitude, as a senpai, I have an advice for you. After the meal, I know you will feel sleepy and I won’t tell you to do it now, but before the bath is drawn out, you might want to go the bath. It is a common mistake where you realize that you have fallen asleep and can’t go to the bath.”

Now that I think of it, even Lania said that the time for bath is fixed.

It can’t be helped.

Lifting my heavy body up, I came down from the bed.

Though having the urge of just going to sleep like that, I actually perspired quite a lot today.

By no means would I want my classmate to feel that I reek of sweat on the first day.

“Then, I shall go take a bath. How about going together, Elisha?”

“U~n.. Though you invited me, I will go later. I have something to think

about....”

Could it be that if he is there, there is a possibility that he might cause some trouble?

(If it's only that extent, it's nothing really, but for now, there is no need to force him.)

“I got it. Then, see you later.”

And then, I went out of the room and towards the bath.

* Elisha's Perspective *

Now that I am all alone in the room, I thought back the trouble I had in the canteen.

(Perhaps I shouldn't have gotten friendly)

My considerations weren't enough.

To think I drag in someone who just came to the institute today, into a trouble so quickly.

(...sooner or later, Mars should know... the incident I have caused.)

No, that itself isn't a problem.

That is getting one's just deserts, an incident caused by my own immaturity.

But, just because he is my roommate, what if he got into trouble again.

The probability of him getting attacked due to me is not zero.

(... As I thought, I should have rejected being roommates. Tomorrow, let's discuss it with Nirfa....)

I believe that this is for Mars's sake.

(But... I was really happy.)

Thinking back to the canteen again.

This time, nothing bad appear.

The fact that Mars saved me.

Just a bite, just sharing the stew, Mars said 'I will return this gratitude', with confidently and without any hesitation.

Thinking that those weren't his true feelings, but just his own way of lip-service.

I didn't expect that those words were from the depths of his heart.

(...But, it is wrong.)

Mars did really saved me.

Though not knowing a single circumstance, his movement has no hesitation.

His words has no lie.

(Though I said friends and stuff, the one who look it lightly seems to be me.)

How shameful....

I am ashamed of myself.

At the same time, I decided to make sure to return this gratitude some day.

Chapter 9 - The dormitory of the Jupiter Institute ⑤

Elisha's Secret

* Mars' point of view *

(Well.....It's a rather large bathhouse.....)

All the people using this bath here are students from this school.
The public bath was large enough for dozens of people to use.

Since coming to this place, I'm always surprised.
The meals were good, the academy's like a castle, and above all that I was able to make friends all of a sudden.

(Elisha, what's going on?)

When I returned to the room thinking such a thing, the figure of Elisha was absent.

Maybe he went to the path without us passing by each other?

(.....Well, he'll come back before long?)

I plop myself onto the bed.
Sure enough, sleepiness attacked me immediately.
This, Elisha is showing no signs of return.

I pounce on the desire to accept falling into a deep sleep.

Gcha—.

(.....Huh?)

Rustle rustle—.

At the sound of the handle, as though it was being fumbled with, I am fully awakened.
Is Elisha is back?

It's dark in the vicinity.
I wonder when the candle light stopped?

When I rose from the bed and cast my eyesight downwards, Elisha was

changing after returning from the bath.

Seeing his back, it looks like he's not wearing any upper clothing.

He usually had his hair gathered up, but right now it was down so the wet silver hair shook whenever he moved.

His beautiful hair was lit up by the moonlight coming through the gap in the curtain, it almost seemed like it was glittering and sparkling like jewellery.

"Elisha."

When I call out from the top of the bed,

"Ss—Ma, Mars!?"

I think his upper body just jumped, his voice even rose a little as well.
Was he that surprised ?

"I thought you were already asleep....."

"I woke up just now."

"Sorry.....Is it that I woke you up?"

Elisha speaks without turning to face in this direction.
His hands also stopped in the middle of changing; he's not making a movement whatsoever.
It's as though his body completely froze in ice without moving at all; he didn't even jump in surprise.

"No, I intended to get up when Elisha came, it was exactly what happened."
"I, I see. But.... Isn't Mars tired? You'd better sleep today. I will also go to sleep when I've changed my clothes."

I'm certainly a little tired.
Best of all, the bed is comfortable as well.
Because the previous bed I used was all stiff it made my body ache all over.
In the first place, anything would do as long as I am kept away from the wind and rain.

".....then, we'll just sleep like this today"
"Tomorrow is the first day after your transfer."
"That's true....."

I buried my body back into the bedsheets.

A soft sensation touched my body.

“Goodnight Mars.....”

It's been such a long time since last time I heard that line.
Going to sleep together with someone, that's also been quite some time.
Living together with someone, that's... been quite a while too.
Since Master Eine's death, I've been living alone all the time.
I already got used to living alone but, it isn't bad at all that there is a person calling out to me this way before going to sleep.

“Goodnight Elisha.”

Holding onto this strange feeling after so long, I drifted off away and fell asleep again.

* Elisha's point of view *

My heart beat violently.
Though I tried to appeal unsurprised, but deep inside, I was breaking out in cold sweat.
I confirmed that he already fell asleep.
I wasn't making any loud noise either.
And yet Mars noticed me when I came back.

Is he sensitive to sound and presence.....?

I thought about such matters while finishing up changing.

(I.....I wasn't seen.....)

I confirmed the situation while changing.
Inside the room was dark, but even if I was seen, it was only my back.
I let my hair down, so my skin shouldn't be seen too much.

(It was good that I turned the lights off the moment I came into the room.....)

This time, I really wanna praise myself for being well-prepared.

(My secret, it mustn't be known.....)

After changing clothes, I'll go to bed.

(Just in case, I'll leave earlier tomorrow.....)

I hitched the towel so it covered my entire body.
And as my feelings slowly calmed, my consciousness submerged.

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Chapter 10 - The Dormitory of the Jupiter Institute ⑥

– Lania and Elisha

* Mar's POV *

"Mars, wake up."

"...?"

Opening my eyes, I see an unfamiliar ceiling. A slightly strong wooden color..

The position of the ceiling is so close, that if I stand up just like that, my head feels as if it will knock into it.

"Are you awake?"

I can hear a voice from the bottom.

Poking my face out from the bed, I see the already prepared appearance of Elisha.

"Morning, Elisha"

"Yeah, morning. I am going for my meal, what will Mars do?"

It seems like the first bell has already rang.

If Elisha wasn't here, I was about to skip my breakfast.

"I will be going as well, so please wait for a bit."

I immediately raised my body.

Though I wouldn't say I woke up well, my brain is rather refreshed.

Having good quality sleep seems to have removed the fatigue from my body.

I came down from the bed.

"So, shall we go?"

I feel bad making Elisha wait.

Wearing my pajamas, I made my way to the canteen.

Students were beginning to gather in the canteen now and then. Though there were some people who also wore their pajamas like me, most of them were already wearing their uniform.

“Good morning! Mars-san! Elisha-san!”

In a lucid and loud voice, our names were called.

“Good morning, Nirfa. Thank you for the hard work today as well.”

“Nope, it’s a natural thing for a maid to devote oneself to one’s master. And also, this is something that I like to do after all.”

Nirfa who floated an angelic smile, is certainly Miss Perfect.

“What would you like for breakfast?”

Morning’s Menu

- Cheese Ham Egg
- Tomato Omelette
- Baked Potato

“Other than that, there are rice and bread that comes with egg soup.”

“Then...”

I chose ‘Cheese Ham Egg’ and bread.

Elisha chose ‘Tomato Omelette’ and bread.

Comparing with dinner, the breakfast was a lot more simple but, it’s still delicious.

If you are asking how delicious it was, I believe saying that its deliciousness is to the point that you want to become Nirfa’s lifelong partner should be able to convey how supreme the taste was.

When returning to the room after that blessed time ended, Elisha held his pelt bag that has lost some colors in his hand.

“I am planning to go to the school immediately but what is Mars going to do?”

“Please go ahead. Since it’s the first day, Lania said that she will pick me up.”

“Lania...as in Instructor Lania?”

“Ah, that’s right..”

“tte, Crap....”

I forgot that I was told to call her Instructor here.

It’s still fine when still in the dormitory, but if I said it in the institute, Lania is going to get noisy.

“It... It’s fine if it’s in front of me, but as expected, it’s best not to call her without ‘Instructor’ in the institute itself.”

Elisha gave a wry smile perplexedly.

“Lania told me to be careful, so I will try refrain from a slip of tongue.”

“You are still saying it.”

“...I will be careful.”

She seems like she will use force if you take a attitude that makes light of her.

“But... I see. The instructor you said you were acquainted with was Lania, right?”

“Yep. Though, it hasn’t been a month since I got to know her.”

Though I say that, unlike the institute, there are no bells that allows the recognition of time at where I stayed previously, so it’s just judging from the number of sunsets.

“Eh...? You just got to know each other? I was certain that you were acquainted long ago and was recommended, or so I though.”

“Na... I was invited at that time I helped her when she was attacked by monster. That’s why it’s really by chance that I came here.”

Now that I think of it, if it’s Lania, she should be able to deal with that monster but, at that time, I mistook that it was a village girl from somewhere that was attacked so I helped on reflex.

If you think about it, it’s not possible for a village girl to come deep into the forests.

Which reminds me, that monster wasn’t a type that I have seen before.

I wasn't really bothered about it since it wasn't that strong, but what kind of monster was that, I wonder?

To me who was reminiscing what happened that time,

"I see... that's what happen..."

"Is it weird?"

"It's not weird but, just that, I believe the fact that a instructor who you just met recommended you, shows your definite capability."

As if appraising me, Elisha's sight was going up, then down, moving down, then up again, before finally staring at my eyes, 'jiiii'...

"Don't tell me, you fell for me?"

"Id..Idiot! There's no way I would fell for you, right!? I am a guy! I .. I will be going, okay? Before the instructor arrives, you better finish preparing yourself, got it?"

Though it was just a joke, Elisha's face was colored red, seemingly disturbed, and as if running away, he went out of the room.

However, the words left behind that was supposedly a sharp parting remark, seems to surmise Elisha's helpfulness.

* Lania's POV *

I was climbing the stairs of the boy's dormitory.

In the leather bag on my hands is Mar's uniform.

(....I wonder if he's already awake?)

The destination is Mars's room.

Since his roommate is Elisha Haynest, I don't think Mars is still asleep.

But, since I am still worried, I went to pick him up earlier than planned.

As I go towards the Mars's room after reaching the third floor,

(Oh....)

I met with Elisha's eyes who happened to be exiting the room.

“Instructor, Good Morning”

“Morning. Is Mars already awake?”

“Yes. Awake and waiting for Instructor.”

“I see, thanks. Since you are his roommate, I thought you would help him.”

“Well. Uhm... Instructor, umm...”

Seemingly trying to say something from opening his mouth, Elisha immediately closed it.

Seriously.... if you are going to that, aren't I going to be bothered by it.

“If you have a question, then do say it. I will answer to what I can answer.”

While displaying hesitation, Elisha resolved himself and began talking.

“... Is Mars my replacement?”

I immediately understood the meaning of those words.

Most likely, he meant the selection members candidates of the next 『Institution Battle Competition』.

“If it continues like this, the results would turn out like that, i think.”

I believe the current evaluation of all instructors including the principal doesn't have Elisha's name as a candidate.

I replied disinterestedly in regards to it.

“.....I understand. Excuse me.”

Though having a complicated expression, Elisha gave a simple greetings, and went past my side.

“...if you don't want that, then regain your ability and show it to us.”

I said it.

If it's vexing, then do something about your ability.

I said it, harbouring that meaning in it.

Then, at that instant, Elisha stopped his legs.

At least that's what I thought but, I can hear the sound of him going down the

stairs immediately.

As someone who knows Elisha's reason of entry to the institute, it's almost like sending a message, even if it appears like this.

As for Elisha, he doesn't know the reason why I am working in this institute as an instructor.

That's why this could be just me being meddlesome.

But I would like Elisha to achieve what he wants, —one's own future.

Even if it's a hopeless situation right now.

(.....Whether you achieve your future is dependent on you. Elisha)

Murmuring for the last time, Lania changed her thoughts, and knocked on the door where Mars is waiting.

* Mars's POV *

——Kon Kon.

Just when I thought I heard a light knock on the door, the door opened without waiting for a reply.

"I brought your uniform."

Though the bell for the end of breakfast has not rung yet, and I was thinking it will be slightly later before she comes, Lania came earlier than expected.

"You are early."

"Thinking that you might be still asleep, I came earlier."

"Actually, I wanted to see your face even a second earlier so I got up earlier."

"That loose-lip, if you say that during lessons, I will burn you to death, you got it."

(Saying scary stuff with that smile..)

o

Having crimson hair, she seems to be dyed in red even more.

"Well, that's enough. I will be waiting outside, so hurry up and prepare yourself."

The uniform was handed over. A smooth sensation.

A seamless beautiful material.

I put on the seemingly new clothing.

Yosh, with this, preparations is completed.

(From today onwards, it's the beginning of my school life!)

Holding to the leather bag with lesson tools, I got out of my room.

Surprise for my 10th Translated Chapter Milestone!

Press Next for the Chapter 11! Be Happy!

EDIT 1: Thanks, K for helping me spotting the “she” for Elisha again

Chapter 11 - First Day of Lessons ① The Beginning

After exiting to the outsides of the dormitory, Lania was waiting there as promised.

Her back is stretched, and also is folding her arms.

Unsure if she is conscious of it, she is putting pressure on her breasts while folding her arms which is seriously poison to man's eyes.

(Nay, wouldn't it be nutrients as well?)

"Hey... Doesn't it suit you?"

That was the first thing she said, after seeing me in my uniform.

"Is that so?"

"Ee, very handsome man. At least, it's better than yesterday's shabby appearance."

(That's not really praise at all.....)

The male uniform is a simple combination of a white shirt that gives off a feel of freshness and a blue slacks.

Though I have gotten an outer jacket of the same color as the slacks, I left it alone as wearing that in this heat is a bit much.

Since it's almost the warm season, wearing the outer jacket is going to be something in the far future.

"Then, are we going to the institute already?"

"Supposedly yes, but we are changing our arrangements. First, let's drop by the church."

(Church...?)

Why are we going to such a place? Before I could ask that, Lania began moving out.

On the path from the dormitory to the institute, you can see the church during that period of time.

“Do you have a god that you put your faith in?”

“Nope.”

“I guess so. Me too”

She laughed as she said that.

To survive what you can rely on in the end is your own strength. I wonder if Lania also do understand that.

“The god this church believe in, is it Jupiter?”

“Yep. That’s correct. The All-Knowing God whose name is also in the institute’s name. It probably has most believers in the whole continent, I wonder?”

This continent was left with many myths.

Within the legends of divinity to be noted down, Jupiter can be said to be the most well-known one.

Many myths have that name engraved in it, and was said to be the Divine King who judged and protects the order of the world, even the creator of this continent.

Though I, myself, don’t really believe in gods, I don’t dislike the legends as stories of Jupiter that holds the absolute power.

But that’s different from the heart of the faith.

“If there is a god, I would really love to meet one.”

“Don’t say that in front of a sister, you got it?”

There is no point trying to deny the existence of a god in front of a clergy.

Believing in a god, no matter which god, is the freedom of a person.

And if it can be the foundation of a person’s heart, the meaning of having the heart of a faith is already enough.

“Come, we have reached.”

The church in the institute is a wooden building with a size of a slightly bigger house of a general citizen.

(This could be the simplest building in the whole of the institute...)

Opening the door, we entered the insides of the church.

What entered our sights was the appearance of females praying, wrapped in a black nun clothing.

That appearance was mysterious and lovely.

We stopped there, and waited for sisters to finish offering of prayers.

“Sister...”

After confirming the end of it, Lania called out.

Then, the sister turned around,

“Ara? Instructor Lania and....”

The sights stayed on me.

“I have brought the student who just came in yesterday. He will most likely cause some problems but, when it comes to that, please do help him.”

“Mars Ruina. I shall be in your care.”

“Mars-san, I see. I am the one entrusted with the management of this church, Yumina Schnack. As the instructor of the institute, I am in charge of the lessons for recovery magic. If you have any trouble, please do come for consultations anytime. ”

A gentle behavior, and a gentle smile, she is releasing a feeling of gentleness that seems to be wrapped around her whole body.

Are sisters who serve the god all like this?

From what I see, she seems to be rather young but.... with Lania here, I better not touch topics in regards to age.

“Now then, I will be going to the institute. I will work you hard during lessons, you got it.”

“At that time, I will work hard with all my might.”

Seeing me off with a smile like Virgin Mary, we left the church.

“Well, let’s go to the instructor room.”

First Floor of the Institute— —it seems like turning right from the entrance and going to the end of it would be the instructor room.

Lania first entered the instructor room, before I continued.

Several people sighted me without delay.

“I have brought a student who will be transferred today, Mars Ruina. Everyone, do take care of him.”

What a rough introduction that was.

A total different attitude when compared to the time with the principal.

I confirmed each instructor’s appearance, one by one.

Like the students, I also thought that there were more humans within the instructors, but as far as I have surveyed, the only human instructor is Lania.

“Hey... he is the child that Lania brought in.”

A female dark elf who floated a bewitching smile.

“Um, he is giving a good expression.”

A hot-blooded looking dwarf with thick bushy beard.

“Best regards, Mars-kun”

A female hobbit who is rather too cute to be an instructor

Etc, etc, many races are mixed in.

Seems like they have gathered up quite a number of people with tough personality.

“Now, it looks like the greetings to the instructors are done. Next, we are left with your introductions in the classroom.”

After Lania said that, the bell for the start of the lessons rang.

“I think everyone have already heard of the rumors, but we will have a transfer student to our class.”

I can hear Lania’s voice from the classroom.

I have been asked to wait outside the door though

“Well then, please enter”

At last I have gotten the permission to enter the classroom

Finally, my first as an adventurer candidate is about to begin.

As I opened the door and entered the classroom, I walked to the front of the platform, below Lania.

“I’m Mars Ruina. From today, please take care of me.”

I finished some simple greetings.

I look around the classroom.

There are students from various races in the classroom.

Never before have I been in an educational institution, the appearance of the environment where students lined up their desk is rather fresh to me.

As I think that I will be part of this from today onwards, it felt rather strange.

“Etto~, Mars can seat in the seat next to Elisha”

(Which reminds me, Elisha and I are in the same class or.....?)

Lania says as such so I look for the figure of Elisha.

Looking from the platform, at a window seat in the most right inner part of the room is the seat of Elisha, who waved his hand lightly at me.

As the seat beside is empty, it seems like that would be my seat.

“Hey, quickly sit in your seat.”

As Lania urges me, I got an take my seat,

“Seems like we are in the same class.”

I say to Elisha

“I was thinking we were most likely the same class. I heard Mars about the 『recommendations』”

“Huh? What do you mean?”

As I inquire the meaning of what that means,

“Okay, let’s begin the lessons. With the welcome of the new student in mind today, Class A and B will have a special collaborative lesson.”

As Lania announced the『Special lesson』, the students in the classroom got noisy

“What are we doing in that special lesson?”

Beastman— —a female rabbit folk, raised her right hand, and asked Lania in a carefree voice.

“I will explain it later so each of you, please bring your magic gem and move over to the battle drill room.”

After instructing, the students moved quickly in the classroom as told.

But, I stayed behind in the classroom.

That’s because I have something to ask Lania,

“Laani.... That’s not it, Instructor, what is a magic gen?”

“Are? I didn’t pass it to you...? Well, for now, you don’t need it. It can’t be helped anyway. At any rate, just go over to the battle drill room”

Said just that, Lania also left the classroom.

But, I still have one more problem,

“Do you know the place?”

The one who stayed and asked me that was Elisha

I just happened to be troubled over that.

“Though I have been given explanation on what facilities there are on each level, I wasn’t told exactly where they are.”

“As I thought. We shouldn’t have any problems if we follow the rest but let me guide you with this chance.”

Then, I went towards the battle drill room after leaving the classroom with Elisha.

As we walked,

“What do you mean when you said because of『Recommendation』, you think

that we would be in the same class?”

Again, I tried asking what I stopped midway just now.

“In this institute, each year course has two classes. And, from the results of periodic examinations, they are separate into A and B. People belonging in the top-half of the results table would be placed in A while the rest in B. In other words, Mars, who has the strength of being recommended by an instructor, I believe there is a high probability of entering Class A. ”

“I see. This is an Adventurer Training Institute that revolves the principles of strength after all.”

“We can have lessons of similar level, and it also serves as a stimulus for people of similar level. Plus, depending on the results, it’s possible for people from Class B to rise to Class A, and people from Class A dropping down to Class B. If you wish to stay in Class A, you have to aspire yourself to always enhance yourself”

Of course, it’s a high probability for students with good results would be called out by the Adventurer Guilds with open arms.

(Well, it’s not like I really want to be an adventurer, so even Class B is fine though.)

(TL: Eh?? Then what does the title mean?)

It’s best that I don’t say that in this place.

“Now that I think of it, you seem to be asking the instructor regarding the magic gem though.”

“Ah. She said to bring it along right? I don’t have it with me.”

As I said that, Elisha knitted his brows and gave a difficult expression.

“I wonder what the instructor is planning?”

“The magic gem, is it something so important?”

“Rather than important.... It is something necessary for the training in this institute.”

Elisha took out a colorless and transparent circular stone from his pocket.

“This is a magic gem. A magic gem is a type of magic item, where by putting in magic power, it will turn into an equipment that the holder fits. To the students here, it is like an equipment diagnosis. The magic gem will turn into a weapon or armor that can be best leveraged by its users. If it becomes a sword, it has the aptitude and if it turns into a spear, it has the aptitude of a spear. Besides, weapons turned from the magic gem has less damage infliction capabilities than the weapons made by the Blacksmith (Smith), so it is most suitable for training.”

“So it’s a equipment for training uses.”

“Yep. Since it’s something necessary for the lessons, it’s best to pass it over though”

“Well, for now, it’s fine unarmed, right?”

“...Ahhaha.— Mars is amazing.”

Elisha floated a smile that shows his amazed admiration.

Chapter 12 - First Day of Lessons ② – VS Sail

After exiting the classroom and taking the stairs up to the fifth floor, we made a right turn.

Then, we proceed straight down where there is a door that we entered.

That is where a room that you will associate as an arena extends in the space.

Even though it's indoors, the ground is laid out with sand and soil and properly maintained.

In the spacious area is circular enclosure made of marble-like materials.

Outside that circular enclosure seems to even have multiple structures that look like observation platforms prepared.

"I wouldn't even think I am indoors..."

"Looks like the coliseum, the fighting arena where gladiators fight out, right?"

"Yeah."

Though I really doubt the students are made to kill each other, it seems like many people would have that impression.

Lania, who have arrived at the battle drill room, surveyed the students.

"Everyone have assembled, right?"

"Well then, let's begin the Special Collaborative lesson of Class A and B. The contents of the lesson is very simple — Is there anyone who wants to fight against Mars?"

(.....huh?)

Lania said something astounding.

Seemingly to think the same thing, the students started to get noisy, doubting the words of Lania.

"Ara? No one? The rules are the same as combat practice. Whoever made the other party combat ineffective or admit defeat will be the winner. The use of the weapon transformed from the magic gem and magic skills are approved.

Everyone is curious, isn't it? The strength of the rumored transfer student."

Simultaneously, the students' sight all turn towards me.

But, as everyone in the area was examining if there was any volunteers in the surroundings, no one called out.

"Bu.. but, to have a battle abruptly.."

When whoever said that,

"Ara? Isn't an adventurer supposed to be able to fight at any time? Is everyone here unable to fight if you have not prepared your equipment?"

There was no one who rebutted Lania's words.

"No one is going to volunteer? Hmm.. this won't be a lesson, would it? I was planning for it to be also a welcome party though."

A troubled-looking Lania groaned.

It's true that if it ends off like this, I will be bored.

If that's the case,

"It's fine even if it's not one-on-one. If there's anyone who wants to fight, I will take every single one of you."

I provoked everyone in the area.

"Though I say that, what about all of you?"

As expected due to the provocation, the students look at me with anger, from the confusion previously, and the atmosphere of the surroundings started to get heavy.

But, even after saying that, there was still no action.

"Just going to glare at me? Is this place really the assembly of people who are truly aiming to become adventurer? Even though there is such a place to allow the test of strength, why are you wasting a chance like this? Are you afraid of losing? Then are you able to survive in this institute after his? Are you able to live as an adventurer? If you are going to be scared of me, you won't be able to fight against monster, you know? Or is it that there are only cowards here?"

If there is no one that show his courage even after being said that by me who just transferred in, the students in this institute just simply can't become an adventurer.

“——In that case, I will fight.”

Directly from my side, that voice was heard.

The one who announced his candidacy is the one next to me, Elisha.

Everyone was started leaking out slanders like “Why would Elisha fight?” and “That degenerate?” and “He will only lose face”.

“To be spoken of that way, even I can't backed down.”

Within the unconcerned-like words, I can feel the firm determination from it.

Though I am not sure of Elisha's true strength, at the very least within this group of people, Elisha is the most serious in terms of his feelings.

“That's fine. Is there anyone else?”

As I tried to confirm,

“Hey, you degenerate, it's pointless if you fight! You get out since I will do it.”

It was the voice of the werewolf whom we had a dispute in the canteen yesterday.

“....It's true that right now I might be a degenerate but——”

“Enough with that, Step aside!”

Sail totally didn't care about Elisha's argument.

“I don't really mind taking both of you at the same time?”

As I conveyed that——light releases from the magic gem Sail's holding, and without knowing, a weapon that has a metal claws on the back of the hand and a light armor was transformed.

Most likely it has placed importance on movement.

The armor didn't cover the whole body, seemingly to minimally protect only the vital points.

(Hey.... So this is the power of the magic gem... Though I heard it from Elisha

just now, it's really convenient.)

“Don't you pretend to be strong, you got it! Though I was negligent yesterday, someone like you——I am more than enough.”

Closing up the distance with a gale-like speed, Sail used his sharp edged claws to aim at my throat. But, by just shifting my upper body, I was able to dodge that attack.

“——cchi! Uuohhhhhhhh!”

The eyes, forehead, throat——All the vital points that he determinedly attacked were dodged.

Having a better physical capability than human, it was a fierce attack that capitalize on that werewolves' ability.

Faster than I have expected, each attack are ones that would have inflicted serious injuries if taken by humans.

But that is only if the attacks connect.

“Damn it! Damn it! Damn it! Why won't it connect?”

I was indifferently dodging Sail's attack.

“Your physical ability is considerable astounding. But, you rely on that strength too much.”

“u——”

As I dodged the attacks,

“In a battle, aiming at the vitals isn't bad. But, because you keep aiming at them, your attacks are rather monotonous. If it's like this, I can even dodged with closed eyes, you know?”

I explained each fault one by one.

“DAMN it——Making a fool out of MEEEEEEEEEEEE!!!”

“Don't get emotional. The attacks that are already monotonous will get even more dull. Calm down. Always think at all times. Adding in a feint, think about how do you make your attacks connect.”

“Uoohhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!”

“Don’t look at just one point. Observe the surroundings. Use those legs of yours, leverage on that physical ability of yours. Use your speed and confuse your opponents.”

But, no matter how much I say, my voice wouldn’t reach Sail’s already hot-tempered head.

(Now then.... What should I do....)

As I think about that, Sail’s movement suddenly stopped.

“Looking down on me....then——what about this!?”

Instantly——Sail kicked off the floor.

He came attacking with a speed far more than what he have showed just now.

A 100% one-hit blow if taken——but

(I will say again and again but it’s too direct. Such an attack that basically relies only on strength, at the very least use a speed that couldn’t be followed, otherwise, it won’t hit.)

Reading the path of the attack, I shifted my upper body to dodge the assault and swung down my hand shaped to a knife on Sail’s neck.

“Ga——”

Sail’s body then fell down to the ground as it is.

As the worn equipment has already disappeared, a magic gem rolled out from Sail’s hand.

“....well, something like this”

Silence.....

(Are? I wonder if I did something bad?)

It was a silence that made me think that way.

(By any chance, they couldn’t have mistook that Sail ended up dying, right?)

Sail is just unconscious and I did not use an excessive attack.

In spite of that, what’s with this silence.

“Amazing....”

And is that Elisha? That voice that leaked out.

In that instant— —

“““Woah!!!!!!!!!!”””

Loud cheers abrupted.

Chapter 13 - First Day of Lessons ③ – VS Elisha

* Elisha's POV *

(Just one hit and Sail is....)

I am doubting my own eyes.

Though Sail is, by no means, outstanding in his results, he is still the upper tier within the group in terms of purely combat capability.

The fierce attack that make use of the werewolf's physical ability is also on the level that can get the senior students into a close fight if they do not fight properly.

The normal humans, unless magic were used to enhance the muscles, would usually be too occupied just following his movement.

It's to that extent that the difference in physical abilities that both human and werewolf have when they are born. Moreover, the last attack Sail unleashed was one with his body enhanced with magic.

(And yet.....)

Mars have not taken a single hit, and won just with just a single blow to Sail.

(If I were to fight,....)

Trap within the surrounding students, Elisha could only gaze dumbfoundedly at Mars, who is getting a inquiry barrage for some reason.

Slowly, there is a vexing feeling growing within the chest.

If it's Elisha, then he would be really taken down in an instant.

The combat capability of Elisha now is below Sail.

It might be faster to count from the lowest rankings of the institute.

No, if... even if I retrieved back my original power, I will most likely still be unable to beat him.

(Perhaps compared to whoever in this institute, Mars is..)

I ended up wanting to know the secret to that strength.

(Since I have to become stronger no matter what...)

Elisha has an aim.

And for that aim, it's necessary to have an overwhelming strength like his.

(After returning to the room, let's try asking him. What kind of training did he went through? If his strength is due to talent, I....)

Watching Mars who still in the midst of the cheers, Elisha made a certain resolve.

* Mars's POV *

As I was enveloped within the cheers, I was attacked by the surroundings with questions altogether.

"Did you enhance your physical ability with magic?"

"You are a human right? Could you be of a different race?"

"Why are you able to dodge the attack so accurately?"

"Though you didn't use the magic gem, do you not use weapons?"

"Before the transfer, where and what have you been doing?"

And the likes of various questions came one after the other, causing me to be so bewildered that I couldn't answer a single one of them.

"Everyone, Mars is troubled. "

From the midst, a carefree voice can be heard clearly from the tumult.

When the surroundings face towards the direction of the voice, the master of

the voice was the rabbit folk girl.

The small build rabbit folk girl was trembling her long white ears, *piku piku*.

And as she used her reddish gem-like eyes to stare at me, she smiled widely and,

“Uhm.. Mars-san”

“Huh?”

“I have fell for you at first sight. Please go out with Raphie!”

As if using the words of the girl called Raphie as a cue, the surroundings’ tumult got even worse.

From the guys,

“Wh.. WHAAAAAAAAAAAT!!!!!!!!!!?”

“Our Raphie-chan IS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

“Damn it! That transfer rascal, shall we ambush him!”

From such improper audacious scream,

“Has Class A finally have an established couple!?”

“There hasn’t been such frivolous talks after all.”

“It can’t be helped in a competitive society.”

To the females’ yellowish shrieks and many more.

“To go out, does that mean to go out as lovers?”

“Yep. Is that no good?”

I observed the appearance of the girl who is gazing at me with upturned eyes.

The slender looking small build of hers simply doesn't look like one who aims to become an adventurer.

Due to the wavy long white hair and her snowy white skin, she seems to have a weak constitution.

Her *Kira Kira* glittering garnett-like red eyes is as if eagerly anticipating for my answer.

“Uhm.. What would be the answer?”

She inquired again.

My answer would be— —

“Hey you guys! You guys know that we are in the middle of the lesson, right?”

My answer ended up being postponed from Lania's roar.

“Is there anyone who wants to fight Mars?”

As Lania surveyed the area, no one answered.

“Then, the special lesson will then end here, is that fine?”

Though everyone has no objections, I am bothered by one thing.

It's Elisha. Since just now, Elisha has been staring towards my direction.

Is he holding a grudge from not being able to fight with me?

"Elisha, if it's fine with you, am I okay with having one more fight, you know?"

"...hn? Ah..."

Until the call out was over, Elisha seems to not have noticed that he was called upon.

With that look, it doesn't seem like he was regretting from the fact of not being able to fight me.

"I understand Mars's capability. It doesn't seem like I would be able to beat you....But.... since it's such a opportunity, is it fine to have it?"

"Yep"

"And I have also one request. Though it is likely beyond means, in this fight, I wish that you would not hold back. Fight with your full strength....!"

In regards to Elisha's sincere look, I couldn't say no and,

"I got it. I will fight my full strength as much as I can, if you are okay with that."

Though it became a rather vague request, since it's just a practice and not a deathmatch, I can only make a promise of that extent.

"I am fine with that"

As the magic gem in the hands shined, Elisha move into a stance with his short sword.

Though the protector are light armor, they were equipment that you can associate with a knight, the silver armor that has beauty that attracts the eyes, the gauntlets on the hands and the greaves on the legs.

As expected, without a surprise attack like Sail,

“Can we begin?”

Towards my words, Elisha nodded, and it became the start of the fight.

* Elisha’s POV *

Instantly——

“....!?”

From right in front of me, Mars’s appearance vanished.

At least, he seems to have vanished from my eyes.

It’s not that I released my sights from him.

(Where——)

In that instant I searched for Mars’s appearance——Gakku——my vision swayed.

(Ah!?.....)

As my conscious is falling into the darkness,

(I am really weak.....)

I am vexed on how weak I am.

* Mars's POV *

I supported Elisha's body firmly which was bending down as it falls.

The conclusion was instantaneous.

Without a single battle advice like in Sail's battle, I ended the battle with the least amount of moves just for the sake of taking down the opponent.

The action I took was just to drive in a chop when I am approaching and for just that, everyone was dumbfounded.

"Well, that's about it."

I could hear Lania's voice that seems to be murmuring.

"In that case, the special lesson is over. The remaining time will be self-study. After that, please return to class and prepare for your next lesson."

Announcing the end of the lesson, Lania approached the side of Sail who is still unconscious, and

"Umm, I believe it's about time you can wake up....."

She shook Sail's body.

It's a treatment that you really would not think an instructor in this institute would do.

But, because of that,

“——!?”

As if hopping, Sail raised his upper body up.

Seemingly unable to understand the situation, he was confirming the state of surroundings by turning his head left and right.

“I... I...”

Towards the confused voice of Sail,

“The special lesson has ended. Until the next lesson, it’s self study. If you are feeling bad, go to the medical office and rest.”

Lania conveyed that the lesson has already ended.

“Mars, carry Elisha over to the medical office.”

“Where?”

“If it’s fine, shall Ralphie guide you?”

Since the rabbit folk girl suggested it,

“Then, please do.”

I thankfully accepted the suggestion.

“Okay, then shall we go?”

Like this, we left the battle drill room.

Chapter 14 - First Day of Lessons ④ – Raphie's Feelings

* Raphie's POV *

(Fufufu~This is a chance!)

Right now, Raphie and Mars-san are walking towards the medical office together.

Though Raphie is intending to conduct herself calmly, her heart is actually throbbing fast, *wakuwaku*dokidoki*.

That's because this is the very day that will become the commemoration day where Raphie meets her ideal male, the fortuitously meeting of her other half-to-be.

(Ah... To think such a strong person is admitted to his institute...)

Raphie is feeling a high excitement that she has never felt before in her entire life.

Even within the beastmen, the rabbit folk have the lowest combat capability, a weak race.

For that reason, to protect themselves, they have a trait to seek the strong as their other half.

In the first place, Raphie has also entered this institute for the sake of searching for her own ideal of a strong male as her other half.

However till now, there wasn't a single person, including the instructors, that she thought of as her fateful one or an attractive male.

But that was all to meet Mars-san.

That's right, that's how Raphie strongly feels.

(Raphie will show that she will absolutely bind with Mars-san....!)

Desiring to be noticed of her passionate feelings, Raphie gazed at Mars who was walking next to her.

But, Mars-san had totally no signs of noticing it.

It, It's fine! The fight has just started after all!

* Mars's POV *

"Excuse me"

As Raphie said that, we entered the medical office.

But, there was no one inside.

"Looks like Sister is still not here yet. For now, let's lay Elisha on the bed."

"True."

I slowly lowered Elisha who was carried on my back, and laid him down on the bed as it is.

"What are you planning to do from now, Mars-san? There is still time before the next lesson, you know?"

Though Lanisa said "self-study", I have nothing special to do.

Then,

"I will stay here till Elisha wakes up."

“..... I see.”

Raphie, who said that, seemed somewhat dissatisfied.

“Is something wrong?”

“N, No.. Nothing. Ahm, Is it okay if Raphie stay here as well?”

“Ah, I don’t mind though?”

“Thank you very much”

Raphie was now showing a full face smile that makes her previous dissatisfied expression a lie.

(Quite the richly expressive fellow....)

“Then, Mars-san. When can I receive the reply of the confession? Even now, Raphie’s heart is going *dokidoki*, so I hope to be able to get a reply soon. ”

(.... I forgot about it)

Of course, I can’t say something like that

I was confessed upon by this girl.

Since a while ago, with no early notice, it was just abrupt..

“Though I am not doubting you, you are serious, right?”

“Of course! If it’s possible, it’s to the extent of wishing to show the passionate feelings of Raphie’s heart to Mars-san.”

It was an immediate reply.

With her serious eyes gazing at me, it feels more absurd to deny her feelings.

(She's really serious...)

But as I just met her today, I am troubled to reply even if you tell me that you like me, because I have not been able to have a proper conversation with you.

"In the first place, why did you fall for me, Raphie?"

"That's because I can sense that it's fate! You were very cool in that battle just now. And, Mars-san was stronger and gallant than anyone in that area. That overwhelming strength that seems to captivate those looking, and the expression full of confidence that supports that strength, basically it was fantastic."

To be praised without holding back to that extent, even I am also getting embarrassed.

But, the Raphie in question seems to be drunk in her adoration, floating a *fuwa~~* expression.

"... I understand Raphie's feelings. I frankly feel happy about your feelings."

"So, you will become Raphie's other half?"

"Other half?"

"Yeah! In Human Language, it will be spouses."

"Sp, Spouses....?"

Again, the conversation went in a direction that was not anticipated.

Raphia's eyes was shining *KiraKira*.

Seems like she is anticipating my answer though.

"... that's impossible"

“Eh!? Why is that!?”

As if not considering to be rejected, Raphie was shocked.

But, think about it.

“We haven’t even been lovers yet?”

“Is there any problems with that?”

“If both parties truly love each other, I believe time and race are of no connections. But, though I feel sorry for Raphie, I do not have as much good relations with Raphie as the desire to become lovers.”

“.....”

Raphie didn’t say a thing, just gazing my eyes with a serious expression.

Those red eyes that seems to be as deep as the abyss gives me a feeling as if it’s peeking into the depths of my heart.

But, a while later, Raphie’s expression came loose and break into a broad smile *nikko*.

“I got it. But, I will have Mars-san absolutely fall for me. At that time, please become my other half, okay!?”

“Ah. If I fall for Raphie from the bottom of my heart.”

There’s no one who knew if that would happen or not.

Perhaps, I might really fall in love with Raphie, or might not.

But Raphie said in confidence,

“Mars-san’s feelings will absolutely turn towards Raphie after all!”

Most likely there are no basis on that, i think.

However, since Raphie is indeed cute when she is smiling while saying that, I couldn't totally deny that possibility.

“Well then, as a form of approach, I will strip for now!”

(I see, you will strip.....huh?) (TL: ...what?)

By the time I sense a doubt in that expression, Raphie had already unfasten the red ribbon tied on her head, and was removing her clothing.

“——hHey! Why are you stripping! Stop that! For now, stop stripping!”

Towards Raphie who has a small build but big breasts in comparison, I was slightly startled.

“Is it no good? I thought it was a chance to bewitch Mars-san though...”

shobon——To the Raphie who seem to show a dejected expression,

“If it were in the bed at night, I might have welcomed you, but this is the institute's medical office, you know?”

“There are only Raphie and Mars-san right here.”

“No, wait a minute, Elisha is here, you know!”

“It's fine since he is asleep!”

This is not a remark you should say with a *nikoniko* refreshing smile,

“That’s not the problem! And besides, don’t easily expose your naked body. Your worth as a girl will decrease.”

“If it’s Mars-san, it’s fine to be seen.”

“If you are going to say only me, then don’t do that here. You don’t know when Elisha is going to wake up, right?”

Towards the persuading words that I somehow threw out,

“... I see. Mars-san is desiring to monopolize Raphie’s body, right? If it’s that, then I understand.”

“Yeah.....?”

Though Raphie seems to be misunderstanding something, for now, let’s just take that it’s fine that we got the situation under control.

After all, it’s not good that we are making a racket more than it is, with Elisha sleeping nearby.

“If we continue to make a racket as it is, since we have no idea when Elisha-san may wake up, I will invite you to a place where we can be just for the two of us next time. By then, I will have you let me make my approach! Therefore Mars-san, I will return to class one step ahead.”

After saying what she wanted, Raphie left like the storm.

“Fu....”

After being left alone, I leaked out a sigh, unconsciously.

(I feel somewhat tired....)

I have never been struck with such honest feelings head-on before.

Seemingly because of that, tiredness suddenly surge forward.

But, It wasn't a bad feeling mysteriously.

(When commuting to the institute, even such things can happen.....)

As I have never spend time before with the same generation and in community life, it seems like there are multiple things to learn.

(This is really interesting...)

There are various things that cannot be experienced in a solitary lifestyle here.

I am looking forward more and more to the lifestyle here from now on.

* Raphie's POV *

After leaving the medical office, I was moving towards the classroom.

But, there was one question Raphie is thinking about.

(Un... Though I have not noticed till now, that smell from Elisha-san...)

The rabbit folk have a better nose than other races, and is proficient at discerning through smell.

(Though he is without doubt a human, perhaps that person is... Nay, there is still possible that it might be a mistake however.....)

Raphie is really troubled.

In that room, there are only both Mars-san and Elisha-san.

It's not like Raphie herself didn't notice that she is making unnecessary worries but...

(There is no loss to stay cautious.)

That is also just to be sure.

Raphie in love will not be negligent!

Stopping her steps towards the classroom, Raphie decided to make her way to the church.

Chapter 15 - First Day of Lesson ⑤ – Reason for Strength

* Mars's POV *

After some time passed,

“...u?”

The eyes of Elisha who was asleep slowly opened.

“Oh, you are awake?”

“...Mar....s?”

I wonder if his conscious has not totally returned yet?

Elisha was looking strangely at me.

“...I...”

Gradually from then on, Elisha seems to have become fully aware,

“...Ah, I see, I.. I was fighting with Mars...”

“Yeah. As promised, As serious as I can.”

“...If that was a real fight, not only would I not be able to fight normally, I

would probably also have been killed by you...”

Elisha distorted his face with a vexing expression.

Tears appeared from those eyes.

“Why am I so weak?”

As if leaking out the words from his heart, Elisha spitted out his dissatisfaction.

“Even like this, I believed I have made great effect in it. To become stronger, I have been practising everyday since I started to be aware of my surrounds. But, the result was this.”

It was grief towards his own weakness.

They were words of people who recognize weakness as a sin.

“Mars, what can I do to become strong?”

Though towards Elisha who directs his sincere eyes to me,

“...I wonder. Maybe more training than what you have doing all along?”

A definite answer is something that I do not have.

The world is not fair enough to make things turn out well just by effort.

The students in the institute, of course, are still in the process of growing.

That's why, though depending on effort, there is a possibility hidden away that Elisha could become stronger, not limited to any degree, most people would stop at a certain extent.

But, even then if you are going to aim the top, it's inexcusable to stop yourself.

"It's useless. I am already.... Just with effort, I can't get stronger at all."

Elisha was accumulating tears in his eyes.

That was to the point that it's going to overflow right about now.

(.... What did he mean by not able to become stronger?)

The students here should naturally still have growth potential.

Though I feel doubt from his words,

"Mars, why are you so strong?"

Before I could speak of my doubt, the queries continued.

"Even if you ask me why"

"To tell you the truth, I think that your strength is abnormal. I feel that while having the body of the students here, you might have the power that is comparable or even higher than the instructor."

How should I reply?

As a matter of course, I was also not strong from the beginning.

There was a person who would give the methods of combat to the me who has no knowledge of combat.

Aine, the master that taught me combat, luckily or unluckily, said that I have the talent to seek for survivability.

I absorbed desperately like a madman whatever Master Aine taught.

I became stronger to survive.

I was unable to not become stronger.

As I think I became stronger because having talent, environment and hard work all gathered together, if any of those factor was missing, it is likely there would not be the current me.

That's why, if you ask why, then hard work being natural, I was blessed with the fortunate encounter and talent, which result in me becoming stronger.

That's why,

"Above hard work and talent, because I can't live on if I didn't become that way, I can only become stronger."

At the end of my consideration, I answered that way.

Elisha might not agree with such a vague answer.

Though that's was what I thought,

"...I see..."

He nodded deeply.

"If you survive an environment where you will die if you don't become stronger, you will naturally grow stronger. Yeah... That is certainly the truth. It seems like I am still naive. I should become even more serious."

He took my words seriously, with his never-changing serious expression.

“Hey, can I also ask something?”

“? If it’s something I can answer.”

Though Elisha showed confusion from my words, he immediately answered.

From the conversation until now, I understand his feelings of wanting to turn stronger.

But,

“Why do you want to grow stronger?”

Though it is weird to ask something like this to people in the Adventurer Training Institute, I felt that even within the students here, Elisha’s desire for strength is slightly more special.

“... I need to make someone recognize that I have grown stronger.”

A serious and sincere look.

It is a pair of eyes that shows the nature of the person called Elisha, one with no lies.

“For that, I entered this institute. And then for the sake of my purpose, it is necessary for me to graduate with the high score in this institute. But, if this continues, it is impossible.”

Hesitating to talk about it, there was a short moment before,

“Seeing my body, what do you think?”

Suddenly, I was queried a question like this.

“What, you say.... Though a male, your stature is on the smaller side, i think.”

After observing Elisha’s body, I gave a direct opinion.

Towards my words, Elisha replied with a nod,

“...that’s true. Even if I trained, it’s difficult to put on more muscles, and when compared with other male students, my physique is clearly inferior. If I fight fairly, it won’t even be a match..”

As if he is always getting such experiences, Elisha distorted his face with a vexing expression.

“If every skill there is are equal, then that might have been the case. But, combat aren’t so straightforward that physical ability will create that winning tendency. If there are situations where we speak of prompt consideration and calm decision-making, being able to use magic or technical skill would result in a huge difference.”

“That’s why to make up for the my weakness, my physical ability, I learnt magic. Since before being admitted to this institute, I have piled up multiple magic related books to study and practise. That’s why till now, I have been able to fight somehow”

“Till now.....?”

I spoke of that weirdness I felt from the conversation.

What do you mean by “till now”?

“The me right now.... is unable to use magic.”

Though Elisha seems to be pretending to be answering indifferently, his body is, as if afraid of something, trembling——

“I am sorry for being late! Is your injury okay?”

And, the Sister flew into the medical office in great panic.

As it is, the Sister surveyed the surroundings.

“A, Are? However, a while ago, I heard that there was a person who had not woken up from unconsciousness from Raphie-san.”

Seems like Raphie have conveyed it exaggeratingly.

“... I am already awake. I am fine.”

As Elisha said that, he raised himself up from the bed.

“I..Is that so? Is there any wound?”

“Nope. I am really fine. It seems to have been exaggeratedly conveyed. Sorry for the commotion.”

“... I see. If there are even any slight discomfort, please do call me anytime.”

“I got it. Thank you very much. Let’s go, Mars.”

Being called, I left the medical office alongside Elisha.

“Shall we return to class?”

“Yeah. Let’s return to take lessons.”

He shuts his mouth after saying that.

And then, without any particular things to talk about, we returned to the classroom.

Chapter 16 - First Day of Lesson ⑥ – The First Class Lecture

* Elisha's POV *

During the span of returning to the classroom, I was repenting over my own weakness.

It's not just combat capability.

The weakness I am repenting right now is my frail heart.

(Why.... did I talk about that.....)

Everybody in this institute are rivals.

They are competitors.

Though I think I will be exposed some day, the act of expressively revealing my own weakness is the same as a suicidal act.

(If it's Mars, did I think that he will become part of my strength....?)

As I already know from fighting him, Mars's strength is overwhelming.

Rather than vexing over the loss of the fight, the feeling of aspiration is filling the heart.

That's the extent of Mars's overwhelming strength.

If it's Mars, could he perhaps know of a way that could strengthen myself who couldn't use magic?

That was what I thought.

But, that was my misunderstanding.

(You could not have lived if you don't get stronger..... you say...)

If that's the case, I wonder what kind of a fortunate environment my weak self have been living in?

And what kind of environment Mars who hold unbelievable strength been living in?

(I want to hear Mars' story. No matter what kind of fine details. Surely, within that, there should be many things that the me right now do not have after all....!)

Certainly, that will make me even stronger.

That was what I thought.

Within myself, I am feeling that my interest in Mars has gotten much more stronger.(TL: <smirk>) (Ru: *sigh*)

* Mars's POV *

As the lesson has already started when we returned to the classroom,

“Sorry, we are late.”

“I have heard about your situation. If you are going to be taking lessons, then take your seats.”

After Elisha apologized, a slender Elf instructor informed us indifferently.

We returned to our seats as told.

“Now then, let’s continue with the lesson”

It seems that this elf instructor is in charge of the lesson “Magical Science”
(TL: Thought that this lesson name sounds cool :P)

I wonder, what in the world would we be learning.

I took my book on Magical Science out of my bag.

I turned the page over. And,

(.... I see)

As I briefly browse through this magic teaching materials, it seems to have listed down orderly from the basics on what magic is necessary after you survived as an adventurer.

Originally, magic can only be used after the process of reading the magic books alongside with training.

Even if you browse through the contents of a high level magic book from the start, there is no way you can use that magic.

The accumulation of foundation is what's necessary for magic.

By experiencing basic magic, putting it in practical use and developing it, you can get to learn new magic but essentially, depending on individual levels, that could also be difficult.

Unless it's someone who took special training, you would have no idea what basic magic would turn into the magic you wish to learn.

No doubt, if it's people who aims to become adventurers, there will be some people who are knowledgeable of magic, but if every single person decides to learn magic, the efficiency is way too bad.

After all, the amount of magic books that exist in this world, is immeasurable.

There are magic from a mass-produced measuring tape to magic that are said to be curses and are being sealed. (Might need to help reword)

Therefore, to aim for efficiency in nurturing adventurers in this institute, they prepare the minimum necessary magic to be learned within the magic teaching materials.

(I see)

That's quite the feat. Though that's what I thought....

(I am feeling sleepy....)

Let's not talk about the combat style training where we move our bodies, classroom lessons seems to be quite boring.

My face gradually got heavier, and as my consciousness was about to slipped off,

——tsun!

And, I was pricked at the vicinity of my side.

As I looked next to me, Elisha was making a troubled expression, looking at me as if saying “Do not sleep!”.

(Ah....)

It seems like I can't pass time in a classroom lesson by sleeping.

As I fought desperately against drowsiness, I managed to accomplish the lesson “Magical Science”.

*

“I didn’t think you would suddenly start to fall asleep.”

After the lesson ended, Elisha’s reprimanding voice came flying over.

“Sorry..... I was so sleepy to the extent I suspect that the instructor might have cast the anesthetic magic Sleep.”

“Depending on the instructor, there are situation where magic might come flying after all, be careful, okay?”

(...If it’s Lania, it seems possible)

As I thought of that rude fact,

“Mars-sa~n”

And I faced that dumb voice, (TL: Sorry can't think of a better word)

"Orh, Raphie. What's up?"

"As the next lesson is Magic Training, how about going to the battle drill room together?"

"We have to move to that place again?"

"Yep. We can't use magic within the classroom."

(Well, that's true.....)

If fire magic was used in this place, it will be a sea of fire literally in the room.

"Come, come, let's go together with Raphie!"

Raphie grasped on my arm, and dragged me away.

“There’s no need to hurry. Let’s go, Elisha”

“U, un”

I wonder if Elisha and Raphie are acquainted.

On the way towards the battle drill room, both of them have no sign of speaking.

Raphie is walking while entangling my arm with hers, while Elisha, as if pulling back by one step, was following behind us.

Though it doesn’t seem to be serious,

“Hey, both of you are acquainted, right?”

Bothered by it, I asked.

“We are.”

“Yeah! From the first year, we have been in the same class.”

But, the conversation ended with that.

They don't seem very close.

“Please be relieved, Mars-san! Since Raphie have no interest in any other males, other than Mars.”

(No, I have no worries on that though.)

“Plus, it's not like I have anything I am bothered about...”

“Eh?”

“Now that I think of it, why are both of you so friendly with each other?”

Raphie tilted her small head.

“Ah, when I came to this school, my first friend was Elisha”

“First friend?”

“I am a roommate of Mars in the dormitory.”

Towards Raphie’s query, Elisha replied.

“Wha, What!? Both of you were roommates?”

As if shaken by something, Raphie was surprised.

“Why are you so shocked?”

“N, No.... There isn't any profound reason... I see, roommates”

From then on, until reaching the battle drill room, Raphie continued to groan, with a difficult expression, as if troubled over something.

Chapter 17 - First Day of Lesson ⑦ – Controlling Magic

“Now then, let’s begin the lesson.”

It seems that the elf instructor would be continuing lessons after Magical Science.

“Hey, Elisha”

I secretly called out to Elisha in a low voice.

“Yeah?”

“The name of that instructor, what do you call again?”

“Ma, Mars... You don’t remember the instructor’s name...?”

“Yep”

To begin with, it’s sudden.

There is no way I can remember the instructor’s name.

Elisha sighed lightly.

“Instructor Shiris Elfard. Do make sure you remember it.”

“Roger”

Having a strict looking face, Instructor Shiris continued the explanation of the lessons unconcernedly.

It seems like today's lesson will be in regards to the control of magic.

"To begin with, let's form pair."

All students started to separate into each of their pairs.

"Mars-san, let's pair up together!" was what I thought Raphie would press in, but it seems like she has paired up with another student.

If that's the case, I ...

"Elisha, how about both of us together?"

"...yeah.... Just that, since I can't use magic,..... perhaps it might not work out as Mars's training."

Elisha's expression sank.

Now that I think of it, he was saying something about not being able to use magic, didn't he?

"For now, shall we just try what we can do? It's possible that by some cue, you might just regain your magic"

After making a suggestion like this,

".... that's true. Then, it might be a bother for Mars though."

Smiling slightly, Elisha agreed to pair up with me.

“Everyone has paired up, right? Now then, let me explain the lesson we are about to have.”

As the pairing has been completed, the unconcerned instructor opened his mouth.

“Both of you are to continue moving within this area, and release attack magic with the intention of hitting. Of course, it’s fine to dodge it, or offsetting it with another magic is also fine. The thing is to continuously releasing magic. The one who makes the most hits with magic is the winner. However, strong attack with fatal capability are forbidden.”

(I see..... Instant decision-making and accurate magic control, it is also necessary to predict the opponent’s movement... this is quite a practical combat lesson.)

“Each pair have the time until this sand tube finishes its fall. You will continue until I give the confirmation.”

Saying that, Instructor Shiris took out a tool that has a transparent tube filled with sand.

It seems like the time for each pair is until the sand completes its fall.

“Is there any questions?”

The instructor surveyed the surroundings.

After verifying that there are no one who wants to ask something,

“Then, then start with those who wish to do it. The others are to study by observing.”

And then, the lesson for Magic Control began.

*

Though I have seen scenes of a few pair training, the level is higher than I thought that I couldn't get sick of watching it.

Specially the pair that is fighting now is interesting.

Their movement are totally synchronised.

As if knowing the action taken by the opponent completely, without dodging a single attack, they were offsetting each other's magic by knocking their own into the opponent's. Even though they were moving around, that magic control is accurate and unparalleled, from the pairs I have seen, these two are without doubt the best.

But, what's even more shocking is their appearance.

I believe they are probably twins, but they have the exact same appearance.

At the very least, it's to the point you can't differentiate at all from a distance.

The feature of the dark skin and long ears are claiming that they are Dark Elves.

(To think they were a Dark Elves twin.)

Speaking of which, within the instructors, there seems to have been a Dark elf though, I wonder if they are related?

Being known as a subspecies of the Elves, the Dark Elves were detested for supposedly bringing about calamity.

While having low re-productivity than humans, though there are no

difference in terms of their long lifespan like the Elves, it seems like the re-productivity of the Dark Elves is even lower than that of the Elves.

I heard of talks that says that only 1 descendant will be left behind from what seems to be a lifespan close to infinity, but right in front of me are the twins...

Personally, it's the first time for me to see a Dark Elves pair but, it is possible that these two are the exception of the exceptions.

"Hey Elisha. Those two are Dark Elves, right?"

"Yeah. Dark Elves Twin. The elder one is Lucy, while the younger one is Luffy. Though I think you already know from seeing, when it comes to magic, they are top level, even in Class A."

"Fantastic Magic Control. When I think about receiving those attack in succession, it's quite troublesome."

I spoke of my honest impressions

And Elisha, in a surprising tone,

"Even Mars think that way?"

And asked that.

"Uh? Ah, that's if it's a match"

"If it's a match, you say"

If it's a combat fight, I definitely won't lose. That's what it means.

If you entered this institute, it's a matter of time when you might have to fight.

Though I think that it won't be a deathmatch, but a match.

"Yosh, that's enough."

As the instructor's voice sounded out, the Dark Elves twins stopped their movement at the same time.

"Is there anyone who still have not taken the lesson?"

As he asked, the instructor examined the surroundings.

"Elisha, isn't it about time we do it?"

"...Un"

And then, we stepped forward.

"Oioi, it's the degenerate"

"He.. will he be fine?"

"If he's going to rampage again...."

Stepping forward, the place started getting noisy *Gaya Gaya.* Within those noise

(Rampage...? What's that about)

I heard of words that bothered me.

I wonder if that could perhaps be related to why Elisha couldn't use his magic.

“...Fumu”

The instructor glanced at us,

“It’s Elisha. I would like to confirm but... is it okay?”

Though I don’t understand, what is meant by “It is okay... “ but, Elisha looked at instructor’s face directly,

“... honestly, I am not sure. However, is it okay to let me proceed?”

Clearly conveyed that.

“ ... ”

The instructor didn’t saying anything while folding his arms, as if troubled.

Seems like this instructor knows of Elisha’s situation.

No, perhaps it’s possible that other than me, the rest knows about it.

“I would like to give chances to those who have talent. But, if there is a possibility that there will be danger to the surroundings, I am not able to approve it as an instructor.”

Through seemingly troubled, the Elf instructor said that.

But, however,

“Isn’t it fine, please let him.”

“Mars....”

What do you mean by danger?

“If it’s dangerous, then it’s fine if you leave the area, right? Didn’t the others have taken their turn? Then I will train with Elisha last. If that’s the case, there’s no problem, right?”

“You are the transfer student, right? Then, I will say it since you won’t know of that accident but...”

“Instructor, right now what I want to hear is only if I am able to train or not able to train?”

In regards to that, I want to hear it from Elisha directly some day.

“...in the unexpected event, the one who will be in most danger would be you, is that fine even then?”

“I don’t mind. This is the training institute for adventurers, right? Isn’t danger something that is indispensable after becoming an adventurer? In that case, I would rather like to volunteer to taste this danger. ”

“...fu...”

Towards my words, the Elf instructor gave a bitter smile and,

“Instructor Lania seems to have picked up a rather interesting boy. Alright, have a go at it. For the rest of the students, it’s free for you to return to the classroom or stay behind to observe. For those observing you are to stay within a certain distance, and not leave from within the defensive barrier I have

deployed.”

After making the decision, he started giving instructions.

Seems like he have approved our training.

“There aren’t much time left but, until the next lesson chime, do as you like.”

“I got it. Elisha, I am always ready so it’s fine to begin on your timing.”

“... I understand.”

As if sharpening his mind, Elisha closed his eyes.

Waza waza The surroundings is wrapped up by noises.

It seems like the students that have left the area weren’t many.

No matter what they say, I wonder if they were bothered about their rival’s condition.

“... here I go, Mars!”

Elisha moved.

From my eyes, he ran to the left.

Though I didn’t notice during the fight in the battle drill room, that movement is rather fast, for someone who is wearing that silver armor.

While running, he stretched his hands at me,

“—Oh, Flash”

Seems to be reciting a magic that utilizes light. But, nothing happened.

“tsu——Flash! Flash!”

Seemingly getting irritated, he repeatedly raised his voice.

But, there was completely no signs of the activation of the magic.

Elisha has already stopped his feet, as he was desperately trying to get his magic to activate.

(If it's like this, Elisha, you will be used instead——) (TL: I believe this is supposed to be those saying like “use the weapon, not let the weapon use you” kinda saying.)

“Bu——”

Suddenly——a burst of laughter could be heard.

And to start off,

“Ahahahahaha!”

“As expected of the degenerate”

“I am shocked that it was said that this was the ex-top of the current year.”

It was a slander that show contempt for Elisha.

“It's true. If you can't use magic, then quickly drop out of school on your own accord.”

“This wouldn't be a lesson, would it? Wouldn't the transfer student be troubled?”

With Elisha as the center, clear malice is gathering around it.

I have never been acting with such a big group before.

That's why until now, I don't really have the chanceto be aware of things like connections with people.

But, I don't think that connections with people are bad things like this.

Because there was master, I managed to survive, because there was Lania, I managed to come here, and also became friends with Elisha.

All of these are definite happiness.

(Even then, what is this...?)

Connections with people can also give birth to such annoyance.

"Seriously quit already! You will just be a hinderance if you stay"

"That's true. Just quit, just quit!! Even though aiming as an adventurer, if it's like this, this is no meaning in living——"

"Ah, sorry"

The one who apologized was me.

——Dan! Dan! Dan!

"Hi——"

"What——"

"Woah——"

I released 3 Fire-ball, towards the observers.

(Ah, my hips gave way.....)

All of them were negated by the magic wall formed by the Instructor but.....
Or more like, that was taken into consideration and was done on purpose

though.

“Y..You, Purposely!”

“No, it wasn’t on purpose. I slipped my hand. But....”

At the very least, there wasn’t any malice intention— —but,

“Next time, if you make anymore of those comments, you won’t know what might happen, you know?”

I directed a clear anger at the surrounding observers,

“ ”

The noise was instantly calmed down, turning into silence.

“Though this institute incorporates a competitive society, just because you slander your opponent, doesn’t mean you ascend in ranks, you know?”

Saying only that,

“Then, let’s continue, Elisha.”

I returned to face Elisha.

“Eh...”

The Elisha in question looked at me with a dumbfounded expression.

“...b,but.... I ..magic..”

Towards Elisha who voiced out in a faint tone that seems to disappear and with an expression that is about to cry,

“The chime have not rang yet right?”

“B, But...”

It can't be helped, even if we continued talking.

It's a long awaited chance.

To see if Elisha is really not able to use magic, let's try various things.

“If you are not attacking, I will attack.”

Aiming at Elisha's right hand.

“Though you won't die....”

What I am using is Fire.

Imagining a magical fire bullet that is agile and sharp.

“It hurts if it hits.”

Before words are completed— —

“What.....”

A Fire Bullet with a speed that could not be grasped by the eye attacked Elisha.

Retreating to the back in a haste, Elisha dodged the first Fire Bullet.

“I will just keep going”

I continued shooting repeatedly.

“Gu.....”

Though Elisha repeatedly back-stepped, if he just continued backing up, he will only be cornered to the wall.

“”

And that is something Elisha most likely know.

He faced diagonally and ran straight ahead.

“Your decision-making isn’t bad. But, there’s no meaning in just dodging.”

I increased my moves furthermore.

Don! Don! Don! Don! Don! Don!

But all of those attack didn't hit, only to gouge the ground.

"In that case——"

If he's going to dodge while running away, I just have to attack with a magic that will absolutely hit.

"Hey, Elisha——It's not that you can't use magic...."

There is a reason why I made that judgement.

That's why I will forcefully create a situation where you have to use it no matter what.

What I will use is Earth.

Imagine an edge that pierce the earth.

"Try avoiding this!"

——Gogogogogogog!

The earth started roaring,

"This is!?"

A large rock pillar attacked Elisha from the ground.

There is no place to run——though that was excluding the sky.

"If that's the case..."

As expected, Elisha leaped.

But, unless you have wings, to move in the sky is impossible.

“Now, you have no way to run.”

Muttering the truth indifferently, I extended my right hand as if determining my aim at Elisha, and shot the fire bullet.

Chapter 18 - First Day of Lesson ⑧ Elisha's Magic

* Elisha's PoV *

“.....C.....”

The ball that was supposed to be drawing close at high speed, looks to be slowly moving closer to my eyes right now.

(As it is, it will hit)

I definitely can't dodge that.

My choices are already limited.

One is to using magic to block the fire bullet.

The other is to block the fire bullet using anything but magic.

Another one would be to just take the attack.

(But, if I received the attack in this situation....)

Though it might not be a high fatality magic, it would be knocked out.

If that's the case, I can only defend.

(But...)

I can't use magic

It's not like I have any technical skill I possess.

(Then, how....)

This is vexing.

I lose as it is.

I will lose again.

Two times in a single day.

Why, Why I— —

(Why I— —Why am I so weak.....!)

The discord that appear one after the other inside my heart.

(I want to become stronger....!)

But, what should I do to become stronger?

What am I, who has no magic and no technical skill, supposed to do— —

『“If I can’t become stronger, then I won’t be able to live, so I can only become stronger”』

That is Mars’s words which I recalled suddenly in my brain.

Mars is looking over here.

Those eyes are looking at me.

It’s complaining to me to do something about it.

I am told to become stronger to survive in this institute.

That’s what I felt— —

“— —|— —”

Let’s concentrate

The fire bullet drawing closer in front of me.

If I failed, it will definitely hit.

But, right now, I don’t feel like I will fail mysteriously.

My whole body feels whole. My magic power is raising from my body.

(What a nostalgic feeling— —If it’s now— —)

“—Oh, Wall of Light—”

Instantly—A transparent wall was formed in front of me.

* Mars's POV *

A sound of “Dagh” was made, the fire bullet that I supposedly released dropped to the ground.

Originally, Elisha who should have received the fire bullet to his body, has already landed from his jumped position, and was looking to my direction.

That expression seems to be somehow random and shocked.

“Reflective Magic, i see. What a convenient magic.”

Elisha used his own magic to reflect the fire bullet.

“Eh? J.. Just now...”

“You were the one who did it.”

“No, No way....!”

“No way you say, then why are you still standing there? It's because you reflected my magic, that's why you are still lively standing there now, right?”

“Tha, That... then, really....!”

Elisha who was really shocked.

But, it seems that shock wasn't just Elisha's...

“He, wasn’t he unable to use magic?”

“B, but, we saw it just now, right?”

The students who were study by observing are doubting their eyes of the current scene.

But, the truth that occurred will not change.

“You could use magic, couldn’t you?”

As if the timing has been chosen,

——KAN, KAN. (TL: Please imagine this with each sound dragging long before the other, with at least a 5 sec interval before the next one. Good job. Now you get the feeling.. 😁)

The chime to signal the end of the lesson was rung.

Chapter 19 - First Day of Lesson ⑨ Having Lunch with Raphie

“Mars-san, shall we have lunch together?”

After leaving the battle drill room and reaching the first floor, Raphie called out to me.

“Are? It’s already noon”

“Yeah. Though I actually wanted you to eat Raphie’s specially made bento, unfortunately I didn’t bring anything today.... that’s why, let’s go over to the canteen together!”

“So there’s also a canteen within the institute. Elisha, what are you planning to do?”

“ ”

Though I called out to Elisha who were behind us, there was no reply, thinking that he might be thinking about something.

“Oi~, Elisha~”

As I stopped my feet and called out,

——Don.

“Wa——”

Elisha went plunging into my chest.

“Are you alright? You were spacing out, what happened?”

“S,sorry”

Elisha frantically separated from me, but his face is painted red.

“Then, what is Elisha planning to do?”

“Planning to....?”

“We were talking about having a meal with Mars-san.”

“Eh... Ah! It’s already lunch time....”

As Elisha behaved like he was thinking slightly,

“Sorry. I will have to decline it.”

He rejected the invitation.

“Are you feeling bad?”

“Nope, it’s not that. There is something I want to think about.”

(Something to think about.....)

I was recalling the training some time ago.

Though Elisha said that he couldn’t use magic, Elisha made use of magic in the training just now.

Whatever he is thinking about is probably related around that point, I guess.

“Mars-san. Since Elisha is already saying that, let’s go with just 2 of us today.”

Being in a good mood for some reason, Raphie came hugging my arm.

“I am really sorry, even though you invited me. As the canteen will become packed if you don’t go over quickly, please go ahead with the two of you today. See you.”

Saying just that, Elisha faced his back to us.

“So, Mars-san. Let me guide you to the canteen.”

Thought I am bothered about Elisha, perhaps I should not interpose unnecessarily right now.

When Elisha is thinking that the problem is something that he should solve with his own utmost ability.

I will only open my mouth when Elisha himself request for help.

(For now, I manage to create a trigger anyway....)

I went towards the canteen while being dragged by Raphie.

* Elisha’s POV *

Just after parting with Mars and all, I went towards the Instructor office.

“Excuse me.”

Entering the instructor office after knocking, the glance from multiple instructors came to me.

Even those, Lania's appearance was there.

"Is there something?"

Towards Instructor Lania who called out to me,

"During the period of the lunch break, may I use the battle drill room....?"

"Right now?"

"Yes. I have something I wish to try."

That nostalgic feeling of being able to use magic

I wish to practise it so I don't forget about it.

Though Instructor Lania was hesitating slightly to my words,

"I got it. But, I will be accompanying you."

"I am sorry to disturb your break. I will be in your care."

Though I was a proposal with conditions, I agreed without hesitation.

* Mars's POV *

Though I were going towards the canteen under the guidance of Raphie, it's awfully full of people at this timing.

As there were students running, it feels somewhat restless and hurried.

“By the way, these are the 3rd year’s classrooms.”

On the way, as we passed by, I was given such an explanation.

“After advancing past the 3rd year’s classrooms, the canteen will be there.”

Turning right after exiting the classroom and ahead of that would be the 3rd year’s classrooms.

“So within the classrooms of the first floor, the nearest to the canteen would be 3rd year’s classrooms.”

“Yep. The institute’s thinking of “those with power would acquire favourable treatment is obvious here. ”

As we chattered, we went straight past the 3rd year’s classroom.

“This is the institute’s canteen!”

Immediately, the canteen is here.

Wondering if there are many entries and exits, the door is always being opened.

Though room is quite wide and the seat count is also high, it seems to have already been buried.

“U~n... It’s quite packed.”

Raphie leaked discontented words

Students requesting for lunch are congested at the counter.

“Stew, with plenty of vegetables—!”

“Hey, you stepped on my foot!”

“Wait a moment, I queued up first!”

It looks as if there might be an outbreak of student battle.

(This is worse than the dormitory’s canteen....)

Though it’s for the whole institute’s use so perhaps it’s natural, you don’t have the luxury to eat your meal leisurely as expected.

(Well, I guess I should also take Raphie’s share here....)

Thinking of that, I tried to step into the human swirl but,

“Mars-san, please leave it to Raphie.”

Raphie declared to me as if getting fired up with grasping both hands with *Gu*.

“Leave it to you, what do you plan to do?”

“From today’s menu, I wonder what meal would you want to eat the most?”

“From today’s menu...?”

Being asked, I looked at the menu.

As it was the bottom, due to the human traffic, I can’t verify the menu.

“T,though I do not have specially anything that I hate to eat.... Is it fine? If it’s impossible, do you want me to get it?”

“It’s fine. Mars-san just have to wait here and it will be fine.”

“O,oi——”

Not long after trying to stop, Raphie went towards the chaotic counter triumphantly.

Is it really okay?

Other than just me who was concerned, there was one person, and then one more student and a few others that gave way to Raphie.

And then, before you know it, Raphie arrived at the forefront of the counter.

The people fighting for the queue are now silently queuing up.

(What’s going on....?)

Receiving the food, Raphie was returning to my side leisurely.

There are two sets of stew on the tray.

“Mars-san, sorry for the wait!”

“No, I didn’t wait at all. Or more like, I am surprised that it was unexpectedly fast.”

“Fufu~ could it be that you have a better opinion of me? Did you fall for me again? Would you become my partner?”

“...for now, let’s find some seats.”

“Ah, that’s right. Before that, can you please wait for a moment?”

As she said that, Raphie faced her back to me.

From the uniform’s skirt, the feature of a rabbitfolk, the short tail, appeared.
(TL: Mars-san no Ecchi... 🐰)

“— —Unlock the Love Illness”

That’s what I heard.

“Now then, shall we go?”

Wait a second. And, I took the tray from Raphie, moved towards the empty seats.

Immediately after— —

“Hey! I am the one who came here first!”

“Shut up! Those who are faster get it first!”

“Kyaa, hey, don’t push!”

The return of the noise could be heard from the back. (TL: She is also quite OP...)

Chapter 20 - First Day of Lesson ⑩ The 2nd Friend

On the deep wooden-colored table, we began eating our meal left on the tray

Wondering if the students who have eaten their meal have increased, there were no students sitting by our side.

“Hey Raphie, was that your magic just now?”

As I was eating the vegetables stew, with totally no meat, I asked Raphie.

Obviously, Raphie did something.

If it's magic, then it should be Mental-type magic.

“Yep... Though it is supposed to be a secret, I will tell you about it specially.”

Raphie placed down the scooped spoon and,

“As you have predicted, that is the magic of allurement.”

“As I thought. But, there is one thing I am bothered about.”

“What is it that you are bothered about?”

“Though Allurement magic are also the same, Mental-type magic have all high degree of difficulty, right? Did you use it not all a huge number, but also at the same time?”

To do something like that, it should have been impossible, even a magician of High Wizard Class.

“Though Raphie’s group, the rabbitfolk race have no strength, for the sake of becoming the other half of a strong person, we have our only forte of the Allurement Magic.”

“You mean you have something like a racial special characteristic for the purpose of using the Allurement Magic.”

“Yep.”

Though Raphie honestly nodded, my queries have not ran out yet.

“Even then, why is it that the Allurement Magic has an effect on female students as well?”

It’s strange that Raphe can allure female students being a female herself.

Of course, though I can’t say that people with such gender preferences, the Allurement Magic is something that amplifies the target’s feelings, but it is not supposed to also change the gender preferences of the target.

It feels like the magic Raphie used isn’t Allurement Magic, but something close to mental control or brainwash.

“That’s because that is not magic.”

“Uhm? What do you mean?”

“I used the Allurement Magic to make the male students listen to my request. But for the female students, I used a technical skill that control females. I ordered them after having them controlled via the technical skill.”

Technical Skill—After hearing that, I comprehended the situation.

“Raphie, you are a possessor of technical skill, Skill Holder?”

“Yep.”

Technical Skill—It’s a personal ability that the people who lives in this world might have.

Though it’s the same as magic arts or magic in terms of a convenient ability, the absolute difference is that without any contact beforehand, it just suddenly manifest itself.

There is no connection to a technical skill manifestation.

Whether you desire for it or not, by the time you realized it, it’s manifested and you are able to invoke it at that instant.

Perhaps, it’s possible that there is some kind of factor for the skill manifestation, but right now, that mystery still have not been solved.

While there are people who manifest their technical skill not long after being born, the people who never manifest it throughout their lives, are also not in small numbers.

Also, another big difference in magic is that they are not confirmed examples of another person having an exact same technical skill.

A technical skill is a personal ability.

Abilities that have been manifested are of a variety, for example, like healing ability, being able to unlock any locking devices, hardening of one’s body, and while they are useful abilities, they are also those that are totally useless.

There is no need for magical power in the invocation of the skill, and as depending on skills, it’s possible that there is no restriction to consecutive activation, so ability-wise, it’s even more convenient than magic.

I heard from Master Aine that a portion of Skill Holder are being treated like treasure by the Guild and the royalty.

(Raphie’s technical skill is outrageous....)

Such convenient technical skill don’t come easy, i think.

And, what's a convenient skill to the user, it's the opposite for the others.

If this ability is found out by the Guild or country, it's possible that they will desire for Raphie, no matter the means.

Even if it's in a way it ignores the person's will.

I looked at Raphie's eyes.

"Ah, please do not be worry. I won't use the Allurement Magic on Mars-san after all."

Unsure what was mistaken, Raphie was making a such a misunderstanding.

"I know that. Plus, even if Raphie did use magic on me, I don't think there will be any effect, you know?"

"U~n... as I expected. With Raphie's magical power, I think I am unable to break through Mars-san's mental defence."

The weakness of a Mental-type Magic is that it only affects targets whose magical power is lower than himself or herself.

Also, people who holds mental fortitude that does not sway are also not affected.

In the end, magic is not almighty.

Just that, technical skill is not the case.

Unlike magic, it's difficult to defend using magic.

Especially if it's not something that follows the physics.

"Raphie, is there any restriction on that technical skill?"

"Yeah. There are two of them. The target of invocation can only be females. I

won't activate on male targets."

"If it's a skill that works on males, then it is possible for me to be controlled as well."

"That's certainly possible. There hasn't been any target that couldn't be controlled by this skill after all."

In the other words, does that also mean the instructors of this institute as well?

If that's the case, it's really relieving that the skill is only restricted to females.

As I was thinking of such things, I was looking at Raphie and then,

"But, even if that's the case, Raphie won't use it Mars-san. There's no meaning if I do not use my own charm to turn you towards me after all."

Raphie who is facing me smiling

I can feel genuine good will from that smile.

Though I am happy frankly, to be said that right to the face, it's embarrassing as expected.

".... you really say something embarrassing. Let's go to the next one, the next one."

"Ehehe, please don't be shy. E~to, ah, we were talking about restriction, right?"

"One is that it can only be used on females. So what's the other one?"

"The other one is for the same target, it will only invoke once a day. For example, if it activates in the morning during breakfast period, the next time that same target can be invoked is on the breakfast period of the next day."

"What's the effect duration and range?"

“On the level of a few minutes. Unlike magic, there is no need for the release incantation. In terms of range, it will be a distance where Raphie’s eyes can reach the target’s. If our eyes do not meet, it will not invoke.”

That’s quite the user-friendly skill.

Depending on how the skill is used, it’s fine to say that against females, it’s almost invincible.

“To tell you the truth, I am awared that I have quite the powerful technical skill.”

“... regarding the ability, have you talked to anyone about it?”

“Nope, only Mars-san. Even for those who noticed that Raphie did something, I believe they only thought that I was using magic.”

That’s true.

Power that stays in the body would destroy the body.

Either being used by others, or exterminated as a dangerous factor.

At the very least, it’s not like the rabbitfolk Raphie has high combat ability.

That’s why, since I have listened to the talk,

“Mars-san. If Raphie is about to be attacked to have my ability misused by bad people, please save me certainly.” (TL: I think Mars-san thinking sense was broken when Raphie made this sentence so it ended up feeling quite disjointed.)

“I listened with that intention from the start.”

“Eh...”

After I replied immediately, Raphie widened her eyes.

It's best that something like that doesn't happen.

But, as long as she holds such a powerful ability, you can't say it won't happen for sure.

Then,

"I will protect you. To me, Raphie is no longer a stranger."

"...eh? That.. what does that mean?"

Looking at me was a dizzy Raphie who was tensed up and flushed.

Somewhat unlike me, I also started getting nervous.

Now that I think of it, it's the first time I say it from my end.

.... After some time passed——I made my resolve.

"Raphie, please be friends with me" (TL: Dooooonnggg! Friend-zoned!)

"I got it!——.... what?"

Immediately after swinging her head vertically and vigorously, Raphie tilted her head as it is.

"Is, is it not okay?"

I wish for Raphie to become what will be my 2nd friend.

But, the reaction was not what I thought.

"...N, No. It's not that it's not okay."

For some reason, Raphie's face was cramping up,

"Then, is it fine?"

"...yeah. From now on, Raphie and Mars-san are friends."

Like this, I managed to become friends with Raphie.

"But, by tomorrow, we will be lovers, and by the day after tomorrow, we will be a pair."

Is that a joke? Nope——her actual thoughts? It's already being blended in but, I was really happy.

"Thanks."

Naturally, I was giving a smile,

"...though it's slightly regretful.... Let's see. If Mars-san is going to make such a happy expression, then Raphie is also happy."

Raphie also turned over with a smile.

That smile was one that I thought to be the best smile from what Raphie had shown today.

Chapter 21 - First Day of Lesson ⑪ Reason for Not Being Able to Use Magic

After having our meal, we went towards the staff office.

As I am the one who has business with it, I thought of going on my own but,

“Raphie will go with you as well!”

And, snuggled up closely.

Honestly, the matter itself isn't a big deal.

I just thought of taking the magic gem from Lania.

As I entered the staff office,

“....Are?”

Though I was looking for Lania's figure, I couldn't find it.

I guess I should come again? As I was thinking of that,

“Is something the matter?”

The person who called out was a Dark Elf Instructor.

As I looked, she is a very voluptuous lady.

Though she was wearing a black ceremonial dress that settles in well, and can be taken as neat and clean, for some reason, she is even more alluring than Lania who wears clothing of intense exposure.

The face that somewhat floats a feverish smile releases a charm that bewilders men.

(...I wonder if this is due to the blood of the Dark Elf)

The reason why the Dark Elf are being loathed might have been due to this aura.

It's like a Femme Fatale that attracts men.

Even if you know that getting close will only lead to your fall....

"Mars-san!"

Raphie strongly raised her voice.

For some reason, she is glaring at me.

"Lani... Where's Instructor Lania?"

"Ah, if it's Instructor Lania, she went to the battle drill room with a student."

"With a student?"

Could it be Elisha?

He could have requested Lania for training during the break.

"If she have not returned, then likely that she is still training, i guess? If you are concerned, why don't go over and take a look?"

"I see. Then, I go over and take a look. Thanks for assisting. E~tto, Instructor, your name is...."

The Dark Elf instructor made a captivating smile and,

“Listhy Lilifur. Do remember it, Mars-kun.”

After introducing herself, including a wink in it, Listhy called my name.

That was unexpected.

I never expect her name to remember my name.

“My name, you remember it.”

“Fufu, it’s the student Instructor Lania has recommended after all. There is no instructor that doesn’t know your name.”

I wonder if recommended students are so rare, or it is rare that Lania recommends someone.

Well, if it’s the instructors of this institute, it might be natural for them to remember the names of the students.

“Mars-san, let’s go already.”

Trying to urge on, Raphie dragged my arm.

“That’s true. Since I already know Lania’s location. Thanks for the assistance, Instructor Listhy.”

“Fufu, see you, Mars-kun.”

I almost unintentionally addressed without honorifics.

Doesn’t seem like my habit will go off just yet.

Not having an angry look, Listhy waved her hand at us leaving the staff office.

If Lania was looking, she will surely have made comments, i guess.

*

“Seriously, what’s with that instructor!”

As we left the staff office and was walking towards the battle drill room, Raphie knitted her eyebrows in displeasure.

“To think she was trying to flirt with Mars-san, it’s a problem as an instructor.”

“Well, be it Lania or Listhy, the instructors comparatively has a really rough spot to them.”

“The instructors of the Adventurer Training Institute are mostly active duty adventurers or retired ones. Though they might have some traces of that time, they wished to draw a line with the students.”

(Heiii..)

I am drawn with interest to Raphie’s words.

All the instructors were adventurers, I see.

Now that I think of it, there isn’t anything strange since the principal was also an adventurer.

And since they are nurturing adventurers, it’s natural to have adventurers instructing after all.

“Mars-san, please be careful! That person was looking at Mars-san with lewd eyes! That is a carnivore! Since I say it, there is no mistaking that!”

“A, Ah. I will be careful”

As I am pressured by Raphie's vigor, we entered the battle drill room.

And immediately, we could verify the figures of both Lania and Elisha.

"Ara? You all also came."

"Ah, We have some matter with Instructor-dono"

".... I see. But, please wait for a while.

" "

In the middle of the battle drill room.

In the form of facing his back to us, Elisha was standing in his uniform appearance.

I could feel strong magic powers from the surroundings.

Though Elisha said that he couldn't use magic, it's not that his magic power was gone..

In the first place, there was no confirmation from many magicians on this continent that magic powers could permanently become empty.

If Elisha couldn't use magic, it's because there is some reason why Elisha doesn't want to use magic——in other words, there was some kind of trauma.

(Though most likely it's related to the accident that the instructor and rest of the class was talking about.)

During the previous lesson, I taught Elisha that he could use magic.

That's why it will depend on the person himself after that but,

"——Oh, Flash!"

Elisha tried using magic.

“.....e——”

But, nothing happen.

Even the magic that can be felt from Elisha was dispersed somewhere.

“.....still can't as expected.”

That mutter is disappointment... no, dejection, i wonder?

It felt like there were some of that feelings mixed in it.

“Though he have been repeating that multiple times, there wasn't once where it went well.”

“There was quite the amount of magic power. Normally, even if he could use advanced magic, it's not supposed to be weird at all.”

“That's true.... At the very least, I could feel that in terms of magic power, it's clearly higher than Raphie's. But, it seems like he couldn't mold the the magic.”

As he tried to mold the magic, the magic power seems to disperse.

In the case for using high difficulty advanced magic, there are cases where magic power is insufficient or the inability in controlling magic resulted in the failure of the formation of magic.

But, that shouldn't be the case for Elisha.

In reality, as Elisha showed that he could use an advanced magic in reflex, it doesn't make sense that he couldn't use basic attack magic.

(though it might result in a surprise attack....)

“Elisha!”

I threw a damage-less Light at Elisha——normally, it's a magic used as a substitute for a torch in a dark dungeon.

“Eh——!?”

Elisha turned around.

The light ball hit Elisha soon after.

—— or supposedly should have happened but,

“A, Are?”

Elisha who was peeping the surroundings in wonder.

The light ball is already no more.

Just before it hit Elisha, it hit a magic barrier and dissipates.

“I see....”

“M, Mars, just now, what did you do to me?”

“I didn't do a thing. I just threw Light at you, that's all. And then, you used magic to defend against it.”

“Raphie saw that as well. Elisha-san really was using magic.”

“Mars, what's going on”

Three of them looked at me simultaneously, and appealed for an explanation from me.

“Wait wait, I haven’t confirmed yet. Elisha, the next would be a Fireball. Show me how you defend it.”

“E, Wai, Wait——”

“Hey”

Totally not worrying about the panicking Elisha, I released the Fireball.
But,

“e——!?”

The Fireball dissipated due to the barrier.

“W, why can I use magic...”

Looking at both of his hands, Elisha widened his eyes.

Unable to believe what happened just now, that was what the expression is showing

“Elisha, try shooting magic at me.”

“U, un.”

While still lost, he aimed his hand at me as told.

“——Oh, Flash!”

.... Nothing happened.

“..... I see.”

So that’s the reason. And as I was agreeing to something on my own,

“Why....”

“What does this mean?”

As Elisha dropped his shoulders, Raphie tilted his head, still unable to understand why.

But,

“Could it be attacking magic....?”

Seems like Lania realized that.

“Most likely, that’s the case.”

“....eh?”

If you understand something, please do tell me.

Elisha’s eyes was appealing that.

“Elisha, could it be that you are afraid of hurting someone?”

“——e”

As if suffering from pain, elisha distorted his expression.

“... th, that is...”

Seems like Elisha himself have something in mind.

“Elisha-san’s grades started to drop after that accident, right?”

As Raphie said that, *Biku*——Elisha started to shiver, and hold his body as if afraid of something.

There was an accident in the past.

That seems like a well-known truth.

“.... I see... that’s why, I...”

Perhaps, he might have been aware about it.

“Though I have no idea what happened, unless you overcome the trauma of that accident, perhaps it will be difficult to use magic that attacks other parties.”

“No way... then, I....”

That expression filled totally with a tragic impression.

Possibility not being able to use magic. That was what is written on his expression.

But,

“Is it too early to give up?”

“...Mars.... That’s because.. I ”

Elisha looked at me.

That expression was totally green.

If it's in my ability, I wanted to help you.

"Hey Elisha..... If it's okay, can you tell me about that accident?"

What is it that became the trauma inside Elisha.

Once that's understood, perhaps, an idea to solve the problem will appear.

"...but, if you hear it...."

If you hear it...?

As expected, he doesn't want to tell me, i guess?

Elisha swayed his eyes uneasily——

"Perhaps you might scorn me, Mars....."

Scorn...?

"What is it? Don't tell me you wet your bed at this age? If it's to this extent, it's not like I will scorn you —— D,Don't tell me it's the more urgent one!?"

"...N, No! That can't be it, right!? Don't say that kind of joke at a time like this!"

The downed and green look on Elisha was instantly dyed red.

“What. then there shouldn’t be any problem.”

“....b,but....!”

While I smiled, Elisha hid his face again.

“Hey, Elisha. You are my first friend.”

“.....”

Elisha raised his face,

“I won’t scorn my friend, Elisha.”

“.....e”

“I promised.”

I am not just saying.

I still do not have the means to proof myself.

I wasn’t thinking of such a convenient thing that Elisha would believed in me, who he met only recently, to be frank about his feelings.

It’s just that, if Elisha believes in me and talk, I would like to be of help with all my strength.

If you ask me why, that’s because we are friends.

For a reason, that’s more than enough.

* Elisha’s POV *

Mars looked straight at me.

“I promised.”

Eyes with no lies.

I want to believe in Mars.

『I will surely help you.』

I remembered the words that was said during the time at the canteen.

I was also saved by Mars that time.

That's right.

Mars and I are friends.

Though we only met just yesterday, I believe that Mars is my best friend from all the people I have met throughout my life.

I feel that he is the best of friends ever.

It's not something that is said casually.

I really think that way.

That's why — I am afraid of being scorned by Mars.

But, perhaps that thinking might have been wrong.

Likely my— even if whatever happened that day is revealed, Mars would surely not scorn me.

Therefore—

“...I got it. I want you to listen Mars. Regarding that day—the sin that I have committed.”

* Mars's POV *

It was when Elisha is about to start talking.

——Gaaan.... Gaaan。

At the worst timing, the bell rang.

“!? ... crap, isn't the next lesson mine”

“This is To show that the break is over, right?”

“That's right. But, I ordered that both of you will be having self-study till the next bell. This is an Instructor's order after all.”

“....eh? What about Raphie——”

“You will return to the classroom with me.”

“N, No way....”

A not-so-satisfied Raphie.

“Raphie, sorry. Please leave both of us alone for now.”

“....I got it....”

Even then, when I say it, she withdrew without objections.

(I have to compensate Raphie somehow later.)

“This place might be used by some other class, so you guys should also move to another place”

And then, both of them left the battle drill room.

“Let’s change our location too.”

“Un.”

Now then, I wonder where would be a good place to settle down and talk.
While thinking, the place I moved towards was....

“If it’s here, we could talk peacefully, right?”

We returned to our own room in the dormitory.
If it’s here, there won’t be anyone who would hinder us.

“Then, would you tell me?”

“...Un”

Urged by me, Elisha started talking slowly.

Chapter 22 - First Day of Lesson ⑫ Elisha's Sin

It was when Elisha and the others are still in their first year.

The incident happened during the Institution Battle Competition last year

In the Institution Battle Competition last year, Elisha was chosen as the representative of the first year and was to contest against the students of the other institutes.

In that contest, Elisha inflicted a rather serious injury to the opponent.

Likely due to being very anxious and tired, he caused a magic rampage.

A magic rampage is the condition of when you lose control of magic power during use of magic, and the magic power was released from within the body without the intention of the user.

Seemingly having tried using Explosion, Elisha's magic might have been gathered as the source of fire in the surroundings.

The fire then ignited the released magic and caused a huge explosion.

Though students who came for observation studies and related personnel were not hurt, the opponent got a serious injury from the explosion.

It was a burn of the extent of atrocity, even looking at the whole body. The sight of the whole body was a burn of cruel atrocity.

As the principal was present and immediately gave treatment, their life was saved.

But, of course, continuing the contest was impossible.

Elisha was disqualified for dangerous conduct.

It seems like Elisha is regretting it even now.

The fact that the opponent's future could have ended because of him

The fact that, even though his life was saved, he was inflicted in a situation where he was contesting in the intense Adventurer Training institute, he would need a long period of time to heal

“After that match, I could no longer use magic. From that time onwards, to use magic——I might have feared about inflicting injury to other people.”

So in the end, his results dropped to the point he is called a degenerate.

“If you ask me, i think the problem is the opponent’s fault for not being able to deal with the situation of Elisha’s magic rampage.”

The chances of being rolled up into a magic rampage in the middle of a combat is plentiful.

Nevertheless, and to say that it is dangerous conduct is totally stupid.

You will only die if you are unable to deal with it.

If you are asking whose fault it will be, it will be the person’s fault for not dealing with it there.

“...the next day, when I went to apologize to the opponent, I was told the same thing. That ‘This injury is my own responsibility. That’s why don’t sweat it.’ I thought I will be scolded——No, I thought I couldn’t even meet him.”

There is no person who would say “I am sorry for hurting you” in a combat area.

It’s all your own responsibility.

You fight upon understanding that.

You must accept that dying is natural for either of them.

I think that opponent understands the essence of combat.

“But, I am scared. I was only thinking of becoming stronger, and didn’t understand the essence of battle. I didn’t think deeply about injuring my opponent.”

To fight with someone is to have a risk tagging along your side.

That is for yourself, and even for the opponent.

You might die.

You might be killed.

I think Elisha understood that obvious truth.

“Perhaps if Elisha does not overcome this trauma, you won’t be able to use magic.”

“...Can I overcome it?”

“You are going to overcome it, right? You said it, didn;t you? That you have someone you wish to be approved by. If that’s the case, you can’t just be stopped here, right?”

If that feeling is for real.

“And plus, if you feel that it is scary to hurt, then it will be fine if you slowly change your thoughts.”

“Eh? What do you mean by that?”

“For example, it’s not a magic to hurt, but think of it as magic that protects.”

That’s one of the suggestions.

“To protect...?”

“There is magic that also inflicts injury. No, rather, it might be the majority instead.”

If you are afraid to hurt your opponent, then just change your conception.
That magic is not for the sake of destruction.

“But, it can be used to save someone, it can also be used to protect.”

“...Un”

To my words, Elisha affirmed it and strongly nodded his head.

“In reality, Elisha can use Protective-type magic like Reflect and Barrier. Basically, you can use magic to protect your own body.”

“I wasn’t able to use it until yesterday. But, it’s because of Mars, I managed to use magic today.”

“Rather than it’s because of me, Elisha made a huge improvement just from today.”

By using his own will, he can be able to use magic.

It should improved his confidence from just knowing that.

“At this rate, if you slowly change your awareness and overcome your trauma, you might be able to use Attack-type magic again someday.”

“...but, it’s not good if it’s ‘someday’. I do not have much extended time left.”

“Extended?”

“There are fixed intervals of test in the institute. As it is necessary for Attack-type magic in that, if it goes on like this, I will be set for drop out on the next

test.”

“Drop out? You mean to leave the institute?”

When I asked, Elisha just nodded his head in consent.

Then all the more, isn't it bad if you aren't able to use Attack-type magic?

“But, due to Mars, I think I can see some hope. Magic for protecting, to save. If I think of it that way, I might be able to do it somehow.”

From the swaying eyes of Elisha that doesn't seem to have much confidence, I can see a strong light of intention dwelling in it.

“Then, shall we try it right now?”

“...eh?”

“Of course, you won't be able to use Attack-type magic immediately. For now, let's start with trying to throw 'Light' at me, shall we?”

Like what I did to Elisha, I asked him to attack with 'Light' that has totally no attack power.

There isn't any problem if I got hit from 'Light', so the one of the throwing side can also be at ease.

And plus, this is the dormitory after all. (TL: Can't you use the battle drill room? And why are you using the dormitory? There should be dorm-rules right?)

We do not have to be worried of breaking things.

“For example, how about thinking of me as a thief? That thief has stolen someone's belongings. So to retrieve that belongings, Elisha is going to use

magic. You aren't using magic to hurt your opponent, you got it?"

Imaging is important when using magic.

By undergoing the process when you have the object and magic power, you can then form magic.

It's enough if you just follow the steps to use magic according to what was written in the magic book.

But, when controlling magic in reality, it makes it easy to form magic when you have a really strong image to strengthen or weaken the power of the magic, to make it big or small.

If it's a fire magic, what kind of fire is it.

Is to the extent of a open-air fire okay, or a hell fire that swallows everything.

Even if it's the same magic, depending on the user's image, the range and strength of it will differ.

Naturally, as the power increases or the range widens, the power required will also increased, so no matter how strong your image is, if you do not have the magic power, you will have the limitation of forming the magic.

In terms of the amount of magic power, there is no problem for Elisha.

That's why what's left is the problem on his awareness.

"Throw the thief a distraction!"

"...U, Un. I got it. I will try!"

Elisha immediately sang the magic 'Light'

A small light ball settled down on Elisha's palm.

The appearance of the light is weak.

Elisha's intention of not wanting to hurt the opponent is exposed from it.

“——a..... I did it! I did it, Mars!”

Just from being able to use the most basic magic within the Light-type magic, Elisha seems to be really happy from the bottom of his heart.

From the look of it, you can really see what Elisha have been troubled about when he can't use his magic.

As soon as he could, he wished to be able to use Attack-type magic

“Yosh! Then, try throwing that at me. Make sure you control it such that it won't disappear before reaching me.”

“U, Un.—— here, I go”

The thrown light ball hit my chest,

“....are you scared?”

“....I am fine!”

As expected, he is still scared.

But, though a no-damage light ball, he could throw it at someone.

What's left is only to change slowly his consciousness of fear that has been rooted deep in his heart.

“Yosh! Elisha, I will receive no matter the amount! Keep them coming!”

“I, I got it!”

A Magic practice that not even children would do.

If anyone is going to see this, they are likely going to laugh.

But, Elisha is serious about it.

Of course, I am as well.

“Make the light stronger slightly. It should be a distraction!”

“U, Un!”

“Wait Elisha, that is a bit too bright!”

Though there is no guarantee that this will allow him to be able to use Attack-type magic, even then I will believe that this will be beneficial for Elisha, and will continue the practice till the bell of the end of lesson rings.

Chapter 23 - First Day of Lesson ⑬ Today's Last Lesson

We were returning to the classroom from the dormitory.

“This is the first time I am absent from lessons.”

“Since that was an order from the instructor, it shouldn't be considered as absent, right?”

Though it could have been fine to continue training like that,

“I don't want to be absent from lessons beyond that.”

Is what Elisha said, so we decided to appear for the next lesson.

(For now, he was able to strike “Light” without fearing after all.)

Even if it's just one step, he is definitely moving forward.

Elisha, next to me, is also showing a somewhat gentle composed expression.

As expected, after being able to use magic to some extent, some form of composure was born, I wonder.

As I was thinking of something like that,

“Mars-san, it's bad to have an affair, you know?”

Raphie approached to me.

What is this rabbit talking about suddenly?

“I didn’t do that, and there isn’t anyone to have one with too?”

“Is that true?”

Raphie wasn’t convinced.

In the first place, Raphie and I aren’t lovers though.... Nay, saying that right now is not pleasant.

It’s so not good to ruin the mood after all.

And then, Raphie looked at Elisha, Ji~~...

As if it feels awkward, Elisha’s expression turned stiff.

“Is, Is there something?”

“.....It’s a no, you got it. Mei! Desu”

“?”

Like a kid scolding their parent, Raphie is being caution towards Elisha.

I wonder if Raphie has something to say?

By no means, do you think I will have an affair with Elisha, don’t you?

“Raphie, I don’t have such gender preferences, you know?”

“... if it’s like this, it seems fine.”

Of course, it’s fine.

After Raphie gave a sigh of relief, this time Elisha is the one looking, Ji~~...

I wonder what on earth do you say about this situation?

It feels as if they are probing each other out.

Though it could be just my imagination, it doesn’t feel really friendly.

As they are both my friends, I would like them to get along if possible though....

——Gaann, Gaaaaaannnnnnnnnn.

We can hear the bell ring.

“Mars-san. After lesson, please let me guide you around the institute.”

Just saying that, she returned to her seat in a haste, without listening to my answer.

Immediately after that, Instructor——the nun from the church, Yumina stood at the instructor’s desk in the classroom.

“Shall we start the lesson?”

With a smile like Virgin Mary, the lesson started.

The lesson Yumina is in charge of is Healing magic.

As the name implies, Healing magic can heal injuries and also cure poison and paralysis, a convenient magic.

Human’s healing ability——To accelerate the cell activity is the basic effect of Healing magic.

It’s elementary level to be able to heal simple wounds.

If you want to be able to restore any abnormality like poison and paralysis, that would be on intermediate level.

Advanced level of Healing magic is able to repair amputated parts, but in the event that the flesh itself is lost, healing is impossible.

If the target of healing is no longer there, you can restore it after all.

Even then, to be able to use Healing magic is important for an adventurer.

While there are plenty of people who solo quests, it's fine to say it's necessary for the ever-trouble-seeker adventurers.

The church's friars and nuns excel in Healing magic fundamentally

That's because in the event people in the village or town got injured or sick, they will rely on the church.

People who believe in their god would be healed from receiving god's miracle.

Though the actual thing is not god's miracle but magic, to believe that is your personal freedom.

Well, as they heal many people of many different kinds of conditions, this is why in terms of Healing magic, the people in the church are more specialised in it than the inferior adventurers.

In reality, Yumina's lesson was really easy to understand.

Not following just what was written in magic books, accelerating healing ability from scalds or something about being more effective by using water as an intermediary when using Healing magic, but it was a lesson based on her experiences till now towards the effective usage and application of Healing magic.

It was a wonderful lesson though.....

"Instructor Schnack! I got injured. Is it okay for you to heal me?"

For some reason, suddenly, up came an injured person,

"U... my stomach hurts..... Could I receive instructor's healing?"

For some reason, patients started appearing... (TL:..... no comments.....)

“I was sleep-deprived so I am kinda sleeping, so can I have a lap-pillow...”

Obviously, people with ulterior motives also appeared.

Well, this fellow got the whole class burbling together. (TL: I don't think the girls would bother.)

But, as a result, the student looked in bliss for receiving the Healing magic from Yumina.

Yumina faced each and every one of them with sincerity.

She ended up taking the trivial jokes seriously.

Unlike the efficient lesson of the other freshly -graduated instructors, Instructor Yumina's lesson seems to have lots of unnecessities.

In the first place, there is no need for Yumina herself to be healing, isn't there?

“Yumina... Instructor. I have an suggestion”

“? What is Mars-kun?”

“In the event of a injured or sick person, how about letting the students do the healing? While it will allow the student to learn, I think the lesson would also be more efficient.”

I suggested.

“——That's fantastic! Then, let's make use of that idea to conduct the lesson next time.”

It got high praise.

But—Giro—I could feel a sharp glance.

I was pointed with plenty of killing instinct.

It was from the male students.

Could this be,

(doing something unnecessary.....?)

It seems like due to my unnecessary idea, it appears that I have turned many male students against myself.

Organisational lifestyle is something difficult.

Even though it's a Healing magic lesson, I learned cooperative personality. (TL: LOL!!!!)

Chapter 24 - After School ① Community

With the previous Healing-type Magic lesson, the whole schedule for today is over.

And at the same time, my first institute day has ended.

It's evening time when the sun has set right now.

At this point of time in the dormitory, Nirfa should be very busy with the preparation of dinner.

"Mars. Thanks for the good work today."

"Mars-san. Thanks for the good work."

Elisha and Raphie gave me words of appreciations.

"Ah, thanks for the good work. After this, is everyone returning to the dormitory?"

The students can be seen leaving the classroom, one after the other, so as I asked that question,

"While there are people returning to the dormitory, there are people using the institute's facility to practise too. Then, there are also people attending community activities." (TL: Hm.. Co-curricular activities.)

"Community?"

The word 'Community' that Elisha said is something that I have not heard before.

“U~nto..... How should I explain this?”

As Elisha exchanged looks with Raphie,

“A community is basically a group of people that formed an organisation to do a specific task.”

Raphie firmly gave an explanation.

“Organisation? How big is the scale of it? What kind of task do they do?”

“It depends on the community. For example— —”

Student council

- Formed by top class capable people, chosen by the instructor.
- Associating with other institutes
- Management of Institutes events
- Maintaining the minimum public order within the institute.

Blacksmith

- Manufacturing of weapons and armor
- Performing actual sales to the guild, town and merchants.
- Contribute the income to the institute

Doctor

- Can learn the compounding of medicine
- Performing cultivation and the likes of medicine in the institute
- Can go out to the streets to buy ingredients.

Cooking

- Learn the preparation method of monster
- Actual search and gather of ingredients within the dungeon.

Battle

- A community for the sake of battle practice
- The most participant in a community.

Magic

- Research and experiment of Magic
- Development of Magic Tools

That was the description of the various activities of the communities that Raphie told me.

Other than those 6 communities that are being officially approved by the institute, there seems to be other communities that exist.

Though it's the student's freedom to establish a community, there are no funds from the institute if they are not approved by the institute.

Basically, if it's self-sufficient, then do as you like.

Though there are multiple approving conditions, at the present stage, it's because there wasn't any interest in it, so they do not want to listen to it.

"Are both of you in an community?"

"Raphie didn't join, but Elisha-san was previously a student council member."

"... though i was dismissed. I am also not in any community right now."

But, to be a member of the student council, that means within the institute, Elisha true ability was quite high.

Now that I think of it, they did said he represented the 1st year in last year combat battle.

During the Magic Control practice, I remember someone saying that he was the previous head of class or something.

“So Elisha was previously the institute’s Elite?”

“...when Mars says that, it’s just sarcasm.”

I was told that as if being amazed.

“If Mars-san is interested, Raphie can guide you to the different community rooms....?”

Raphie gave such a suggestion.

Though it’s not that I am not interested,

“I guess I will not do that today. But, thanks, Raphie. If there is another chance, I will leave it to you.”

“Got it. Please leave it to me.”

Without making a unhappy face even once, Raphie nodded.

“If you are going to visit, then a day off might be a good time, i think.”

“Day off? This institute has day offs?”

The red-haired Instructor, that got me all the way here, did not say a single thing about it though...

“Did you hear it from Instructor Lania? After six days of lesson, there will one day off, you know?” (TL: that’s quite taxing...)

....Totally wasn’t told about it.

I was certain I will be having lessons everyday.

“While there are lessons during the normal days, it’s convenient that we can have our meal in the dormitory after all. You can’t have long community activities, right? That’s why all community activities are mainly held on day offs.”

Towards Elisha’s explanations, Raphie added.

I see.

That’s you say a day off is a good time.

Seems like it will be interesting to observe the community since there is a day off.

“Then, shall we return for today?”

“... that’s true.—oh, sorry. Before that, I need to go to the Instructor office.”

“Is there something?”

“I have not received the magic stone from Lania.”

“Ah...”

Ah.. It was Raphie who voiced out when she seems to have remembered it.

As Raphie knows about the situation at that time, she likely voiced out unconsciously due to that.

After all, I didn't manage to receive it during the break in the end.

"I will return to the Instructor office, so both of you should go on ahead——"

Before I could finish, Raphie grabbed my arm.

"Raphie shall accompany you!"

".....I got it."

Towards the feelings of the rabbitfolk girl who made a smile, Nikko, I couldn't refuse it flat out.

"What are you going to do, Elisha?"

"....U~n...."

The sights of a hesitating Elisha faced Raphie.

Raphie was complaining about something to Elisha with her eyes.

What was complained is something I wouldn't know.

"The, then, I will just return back first, I guess."

"Is that so? Then, shal we go?"

"Un. I will be waiting in the room, so after you returned, let's have a meal together."

Just promising that, we went out of the classroom.

Chapter 25 - After School ② Elisha's Determination

* Elisha's POV *

After separating from Mars and group, I came to the front gate of the institute.

At the gate, there were more students gathered around than usual.

I wonder if someone is waiting for a person?

As I thought about it,

"You are Elisha of the 2nd year, right?"

I was called out by one of the person in the group.

He's a male werewolf.

From what I can see, he doesn't seem like a 2nd year student....

"That's right, but is something the matter?"

"....That person called Mars Ruina, where is he?"

"What business do you have with Mars?"

Towards someone who don't even say his reasons, I can't tell him the location.

In the first place, it's obviously that it's not a pleasant business.

"You degenerate! You should answer what you have been asked!"

The werewolves started surrounding me.

“At the very least, he doesn’t seem to be here, right?”

“...hey you——”

“——What”

The werewolf’s fist came grazing my face.

“Do you know the current situation?”

“Situation? Am I going to start dancing waltz with every single person here?”

That’s impossible.

I do know that much.

But, I figured out the reason where they are waiting in a group for Mars.

Surely if it’s Mars, even if I don’t do anything, he should be able to resolve this anyway.

But, I can’t just honestly replied Mars’s location even if that’s the case.

That’s an action of selling out a friend.

Mars is my friend.

The number of the enemies are high.

I still can’t use Attack-type magic.

There is no guarantee I can win from fighting.

But, I will show that I can do something about these people somehow.

Even if it’s a little——I want to be able to confidently say that I am Mars’s friend.

“Ha——You have some guts!”

And thus——Elisha’s fight began. (TL: On the next episode of Jobless.....)

* Mars’s POV *

It was at the time when I was about to enter the instructor office.

“Excuse me.”

As I thought of hearing an overly serious tone from the inside, the door opened,

“——!?”

The female elf that came out from behind the door bumped into me.

“Oh.... you alright?”

I embraced the female’s body, after pulling her hand when she was about to fall from the collision. (TL: Wow, he is something....)

The hugged female lifted her face.

Our eyes met.

(Are? Spectacles....?)

It was a familiar appearance, when I looked at it again.

As it seems to be the same for the female as well,

“——Yo, you are.....!”

“.....Ah, the elf yesterday” (TL: What’s this tingling feeling I am getting?)

Yep.

She is the female elf I met when I first came here.

“H,how long do you plan to stay like this? Release me!”

As if jumping around, she hastily distanced herself from me.

“It’s been since yesterday, i guess.”

Though I thought we will meet again somewhere, it was quite a quick reunion.

“.....it seems you are really a transfer student”

“Didn’t I said that?”

So you were still suspecting it?

“.... I apologize for treating you as a suspicious person without verifying that time. But, as you are also in the wrong for loitering around in that appearance, please do make sure you wear your uniform in the institute from now on.”

A commanding tone.

Even though she is supposed to be a student like me, she has a more severe attitude than the instructors.

In the first place, though I didn't have uniform that time, there is no point in saying this now.

"...Ah, I will be careful, okay?"

I decided to apologize obediently.

But,

"I will be careful. Okay?"

She included instructions for speech.

"I will be careful."

"Very well."

After I immediately correct myself, the female elf nodded satisfied.

But, seeming like she haven't finished herself, she fixed her eyes, where the insides possessed the beauty of emerald, on me.

Now that I think of, I heard that the green eyes of elf are the symbol of High Elf, but is that true?

As I was thinking about that,

"It seems like there is no problems with the way you wear the uniform. Just that, I guess it would be better if you would buttoned up your shirt a bit more."

Seems like she was doing a clothing check.

“Oh——Excuse me. I have not introduce myself. Alicia Restent of the 3rd year.”

“I am the transfer student of the 2nd year, Mars Ruina”

“Mars-kun, you say. I shall remember that. Now then, as I have errands to do for my community, I shall excuse ——”

At that time——

“President!!”

A male student came rushing over to Alicia hastily.

“What happened?”

“Ahead of after exiting the front gate, there is a brawl uproar——”

“Brawl....? I understand. I shall go immediately.”

Receiving the report from the male student, Alisa went to the location.

(Brawl uproar you say.....)

He did say it was the front gate, right?

“Raphie, let’s go as well.”

“Eh....? M, Mars-san, how about the magic stone?”

“It’s fine after that, right?”

Towards me who was chasing after Alicia, Raphie followed me in a fluster.

Chapter 26 - After School ③ A Fight to Protect

* Elisha's POV *

The werewolves were making a rush attack together.

None of them were carrying weapons.

However, a fierce attack from the high physically-capable werewolves is a threat, even if they are unarmed.

In the first place, if they attacked with their knife-like claws, it is definitely a fatal wound when hit at a vital spot.

If I can't dodge all of them, I have to at least protect the most critical areas.

I will receive all attacks that can't be dodged and aimed at non-vital areas.

That's what I decided.

But the werewolves did not aim for the vitals.

The opponents aren't serious.

Then, it seems like I can find an opportunity from there.

I will observe all their attacks.

Totally no teamwork.

Each of their movement have a weakness.

The reason why I can somehow stand up to so many people is because of that.

But, I do not have the composure to make a counterattack right now.

I am losing my stamina gradually.

I know that my pulsation is getting intense.

My breathing is in disorder.

If it turns into a drawn-out fight, I will be at the disadvantage.

To be able to finish up these number of people, I have to use magic.

But——can I do it?

I have to use a magic with an extent of power that doesn't cause a very bad injury.

A reliable control of magic is necessary.

It's been a while since my last actual fight and I have to do that?

The memories from the incident is being recalled in my head.

The appearance of a burnt and collapsed student.

Just thinking of that sends shiver down my spine.

I despair at my own doings.

As if my thoughts have stopped, unable to think of anything——

“Don't just stand idle!”

At that instant of negligence.

“Gu——”

The fist of the werewolf was thrust into my abdomen.

My breathing stopped.

My knee collapsed, unable to support my body.

“Your legs have stopped, you know.”

Desperately enduring it, I dodged the attack somehow.

(Don't think of anything unnecessary.....)

I said it to myself.

Right now, I should battle to protect Mars.

Elisha firmly gazed at the opponents, swooping his way.

* Mars's POV *

As we exit the front gate, there was already a crowd.

“Did you hear? It seems that degenerate has picked a fight with the 3rd years.”

“The degenerate you were talking about, is it the 2nd year, Elisha, right? Why did he...?”

From the clatter, such a conversation entered my ears.

(Elisha did....?)

Is there some sort of a mistake?

The Elisha I know isn't a person who would pick a fight with someone else.

Did the rumor got spread out mistaken because he was walking alone?

Trying to confirm the real situation, I forced my way through the crowd and,

“Hey! What happened!”

What came to view of my eyes is not a brawl.

It was Many versus One

And within that scene of those words that floated in was without doubt Elisha.

“You are only assertive at the start, aren’t you?”

It seems like the opponent who is attacking Elisha is generally werewolves.

Against a number of werewolves as the opponents, Elisha was having a hard fight.

“There is no meaning to just running away!”

He is doing well dodging the attacks coming from all directions.

But, there is totally no room for attack, only a full defensive fight.

Likely because the opponent has the superior numbers so they have the composure, it’s not like they are seriously attacking Elisha.

As proof, there was totally no attacks on vitals.

What the werewolves are doing is violence to create pain,

But, Elisha’s eyes shows that he isn’t giving in to the violence.

Without losing its glow, he did not give up on victory.

He is calmly looking at the opponents’ movement.

To find a way to break through of this situation.

(Though I am thinking of helping out....)

It seems that it’s best that I do not do that for now.

If he is making the determination to fight to the bitter end alone, it’s unrefined to help out.

Though I made such a judgement,

“All of you, what are you doing!”

At my side——it seems that the black-haired spectacle-wearing elf doesn't think that way.

"P, PresidentAlicia"

The movement of the werewolves stopped simultaneously.

Now that I think of it, it seems that previously she was also called President?

What is that about?

"...this is not a training, right? If this continues, I shall give out punishments, you got it?"

I can see the anxiety on the expressions of the werewolves.

From their expressions, I can feel something like fear as well.

Are these people afraid of Alicia?

Though she said punishments, I wonder what is she planning to do specifically?

"There is no longer the intention to fight. Is it fine for me to judge it that way?"

A utter once again.

Silence

No one is making any objecti——

"Wait Alicia. This is actual combat training."

One of the werewolves came out to the front from the group.

Though I am bothered as to why only this werewolf tried to correct Alicia.

“Rusty—... The one who lead on this is you, I see”

As if troublesome, Alicia gave out a sigh.

“Lead on? What are you talking? I said it just now, didn’t I? This is only a training assuming an actual combat.”

Having a face scar as if cut by a sharp object, the werewolf make a smile, Niya~, without having a timid expression.

“In an actual fight, it’s normal to have multiple enemies, right?”

“Though it seems to me that it is an one-sided violence.”

“That’s just your imagination.”

It seems like the guy Rusty is planning to excuse himself out of this.

“Then, I shall change my question, but do you plan to continue this training?”

“That’s right. There is something this guy to tell me after all.”

Rusty looked at Elisha

This guy, is a 3rd year, I see.

I wonder what is he trying to sound out?

Is that the reason for this conflict?

“Something you want him to tell you?”

“Ah. There is this transfer student called Mars Ruina, right? I have business with that guy but.... After asking this guy, he doesn't want to tell me.”

“.....”

Alicia closed her mouth.

Not making a single word.

I wonder if she is troubled about how to answer.

After all, I am right here.

Elisha also have not realized my presence.

Looking at Rusty with a stern look.

But, it seems that the reason for this battle is due to me.

If that's the case,

“Yo, senpai. I am Mars.”

“.....what?” (TL: LOL!!!)

I gave out my name

Rusty, who was looking at me, is making a idiotic face.

“...you are.... Mars?” (TL: Still stunned?)

“Yeah”

“Don't tell me you have been looking all this time?”

“Ah, just a while before.”

“Haha, Oioie, did you stay quiet looking at your friend being attacked?”

“Yeah. That’s correct.”

“Hahahahahaha, Oi oi, Degenerate, did you hear that?”

What are you laughing at?

“This guy doesn’t seem to care about you, you know?”

“ ... ”

Elisha didn’t say anything.

Just looking at me with his honest eyes.

“You have quite the ‘friend’, you know”

The werewolf’s followers also distorted into a funny expression.

“Hey, did you misunderstand something?”

“Huh? What did we misunderstand?”

As expected, they didn’t know anything.

This is a misunderstanding at its finest.

“Elisha is trying to defeat you guys alone? If that’s the case, there isn’t any need for me to lift a finger, is there?”

“Huh? What are you talking about? You can really say that after looking at this situation.”

“....this situation, doesn’t have a result yet, right? Isn’t that right, Elisha?”

As I called out to him, the sights of the surroundings also turned towards Elisha.

And Elisha,

“.....Un. That’s of course.”

To let everyone here hear it,

“I planned to win.”

Elisha announced certainly.

“Elisha has already said it.”

“.....haha——oioi, are you serious?”

Rusty floated a wry smile, amazed.

“Why do you think it’s a joke?”

A question was returned with a question.

From the start, why is he doubting everything I said?

I have not made a single joke since just now.

“....oioi, I seem to have been looked down upon.”

“Huh? What have you been saying since some time ago?”

“That’s enough——”

Rusty’s mood have changed.

He is not even trying to hide his thirst for blood.

Though he seems to want to fight, his target for blood shouldn’t be me, right?

“Alicia, this is training. Just teaching a 2nd year, how to fight.”

The werewolf made a evil smile, and

“That’s why——Don’t make a move!”

He kicked the ground with both of his legs.

It is fast itself.

He is faster than Sail by a bit, I wonder?

Rusty’s fingertips were aiming at my head.

Though unarmed, his claws were as sharp as edged tools.

If it hits, my throat would be crashed.

But,

“?.....? He....?”

It seems like he doesn’t know where I went.

The werewolf was looking around at his surroundings restlessly.

“Hey, Senpai.”

“——!?”

I voiced out from behind.

I think he was shocked that he was dodged.

Or shocked about the fact that I took his back.

From his expression, I can see disturbance.

“What are you going to do fighting me? Your opponent is Elisha, right?”

There is no way such an attack is going to connect.

It's a straightforward movement,

The same as Sail.

I wonder if all werewolves are unable to move without being direct?

“... what did you do?”

“Huh?”

“What the hell did you do?”

No, I just dodge your attack though...

“Magic? But in that instant?”

“Huh? What are you talking about? To dodge an attack of that level, there is no need for magic, right?”

“Chi.....It seems like you don't intend to tell us about the kind of sleight of hand that you did?”

This guy hasn't been listening to what I have been talking about since a while ago.

"Then I will just destroy you, and force it out."

And the attack restarted.

"What a big attack."

An attack to the face was dodged by just turning my head away.

The second attack was also the face but I dodge it by turning my head in the opposite direction.

"Just keeping moving around!"

"Like I said, the one you should be fighting is not me, right?"

"Shut up! I will settle the degenerate later!"

I dodged the visiting kick with a backstep.

"... in that case, ——Oh, Wind!"

With Rusty at the epicenter, a strong wind pressure was produced.

"...now then, can you dodge it!?"

Most likely, he is using the wind to increase this speed.

His attack speed is rising compared to his previous attempts.

To the point where I think that dodging is a chore.

“...what the hell!? Why aren’t I connecting!?”

“Hey, have you been listening to me?”

I don’t feel like staying as your opponent though...?

Shall I just defeat him?

But, after Elisha announced that he is going to defeat them, I am troubled if it is fine for me to defeat him.

(What should I do....)

As I am hesitating while dodging the attacks, Elisha’s face came into view——

(I got it....!)

I just thought of something.

Since it’s like this, I just have to make use of these guys.

“Elisha, I won’t make an attack on these guys.”

“...huh?”

“Please use your magic and defeat all of them.”

“E——EEEEHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!?”

Looks like my idea was something that would make Elisha exclaimed.

“Y, You, are you looking down on us? Not attacking? Don’t joke with me!”

“There will be an attack. Elisha will”

“Y—You, I will really make you regret! Hey, don’t just stand there and look, help out! Everyone, stop his guy from moving!”

From the Dog boss’s order, the werewolves moved to try to catch me.

“Now then Elisha, do try not to target me. The targets are the werewolves.”

“.....w, what’s going on?”

Why are you making such a weeping voice.

“I am really not making an attack. Come and save me Elisha.”

“E....Eh?”

“If you don’t save me, I will be beaten down, Bokoboko, by these guys...”

Use magic to protect me.

It’s an indirect way of saying that.

To protect his friend, he have to use magic.

Elisha was entitled to that name. (TL: He is talking about the name “friend”)

Now then, what should I do?

With this, if Elisha is able to use Attack-type magic, it will be splendid.

If unable to.... Though I feel sorry for Elisha, I will defeat everyone here.

What I am worried about is whether their stamina will last.

Don’t collapse so quickly, werewolves.

At the very least, hold on until Elisha could resolve himself to use magic.

Thus, I will have to continue dodging attacks for a short while.

Chapter 27 - After School ④ The Result of the Fight

* Elisha's POV *

(Why did it end up like this....!)

Mars dodged the attacks of the werewolves the attacks easily, as if rhyming to dance steps.

There is no indication of the attacks making contact at all.

Even though he seems to have the composure to counter-attack, he doesn't make a single one.

Mars is only dodging the attacks continuously.

And sometimes, he will look at me.

~Chira, Chira~ Just moving his sights.

Somehow, Mars seems to be having fun.

I am starting to feel excited.

(What are you thinking!)

I wanted to shout that.

That shows how many people he is taking on.

You have no idea how long Mars's stamina can hold on

No matter how strong Mars is, there is always that possibility.

Then, should I quickly use magic to save him?

But, if I force myself to use magic, and my magic goes on a rampage....

There are many people who gather here due to catching onto the uproar.
There is the possibility of dragging them in.

The best would be not to fail in the activation of magic.

An ideal situation would be to disable their combat ability with a degree of not

causing a heavy injury.

But, just throwing 'Light' at an opponent is already my limits.

The damage of 'Light' is none.

It's not something I can use to disable the combat ability of my opponent.

If I throw 'Light'——

(.....un? But... I see.....!)

If all I need to do is just to disable the other party's combat ability, magic is not the only way.

Perhaps,

"Particles of Light——"

I can only just try!

There is no other idea!

To determine my aim, I thrust my right hand to the front.

As Mars looked over here, I feel like he raised his head slightly.

"Mars, close your eyes!"

After verifying that Mars covered his face with his arm, I use my magic.

"Light"

A Light-type magic of zero damage

But, I adjusted the intensity of brightness to the max.

I threw it at the center of the werewolves.

Instantly, as if an explosion of light, the surrounding illuminates.

It was a light that seems to burn your eyes, even if you covered them.

But, I quickly opened my eyes.

The light had already dissipated.

“Gu——my eyes....”

“Crap, where are you!?”

As planned.

My plan worked.

As I dash, I put in magic to the magic stone and form a weapon.

I made the defenseless werewolves unconscious using the back of my sword.

One, two, three, four, five.

I will defeat everyone before their sights return.

Six, seven, eight, nine——and lastly, the leader of the werewolf.

“——Wind! ——Blow to devastation!”

Rusty shouted.

And then, a wind as strong as a storm came blowing.

I couldn't get closer than I already am as the wind is acting like a barrier.

“..... crap, finally I could see. Crap you! What the hell is that! Just 'Light' actually.... Crap! Crap! Crap you!”

Seeing his fallen fellows in the surroundings, he stamped his feet without

trying to hide his annoyed state.

“Damn it! In the first place, who are you! Making a surprise attack when I am fighting with this guy! You coward crap!”

“No, how can you say that when you are the one who attack Elisha with that large number first?”

It seems like Mars spoke what I felt.

The werewolf glared at Mars who was totally calm and replied unconcernedly. His eyes holds the thirst of blood.

“.....!”

Without any words, he started dashing towards Mars.

But, Mars didn't move.

Only to move his sights to me.

“Elisha, you have one left, you know.”

Those eyes——believe that I could stop him.

Idiot.

Mars is——

If you are going to do that in this situation, I——

“——Light!”

The raised right hand emitted a surge of light.

This attack of the speed of light was at a speed faster than the werewolf's attack reaching Mars.

"....Gu——"

The attack shot through the enemy target.

* Mars's POV *

".... D, did I do it?"

As if not believing what he did, Elisha said that while isolated.

"Ah, you did it!"

The last attack was a splendid use of the Light-type magic.

"It was a splendid attack."

"I.. I did that?"

Looks like he still doesn't believe it.

But, if you see the people that fell, what happened just now is obvious.

"It can be done if it's to protect, right?"

"....a——"

Elisha's eyes started overflowing tears, ~Buwaa~

I thought it was tears of happiness at first but,

"Idiot!"

I was hit in the region of my chest.

~Poko~, or actually it was quite painful as it was more like ~Buko~!

"Stupid, Mars is an idiot! Why did you do such a thing!"

"Such a thing?"

"If it's Mars, you could have defeated them quickly, right?"

.....ah.

Is he angry that I didn't do a thing?

"That's because you said you were going to defeat them."

".... even then, if I couldn't use magic, you could have been in danger, isn't it?"

Danger...?

Ah.... that's what it is.

Most likely, Elisha is worried about me.

He is angry and crying for my sake.

Somehow, I feel like that something inexcusable.

Perhaps, I could have thought lightly while trying to get Elisha to use his magic

though,

“Sorry.”

I didn’t expect to be worried that much.

That’s why I will apologize honestly

“Do you really feel sorry?”

“Ah.”

“ThenI will forgive you.” (TL: Seriously, I am not expecting a he to say something like this...Hair standing...)

As he said that, a smile floated out.

“It’s a truth that because of Mars, I could use magic.”

Likely due to shedding tears, Elisha’s face was slightly red.

Chapter 28 - After School ⑤ The Student Council President

* Raphie's POV *

Until the battle is over, Raphie's eyes were nailed onto Mars-san.

Mars-san was dodging the attacks from the werewolves splendidly.

It was an expression, flooded with somewhat a composed and enjoyment.

Eyes filled with confidence.

Mars-san is definitely believing in his victory.

But, that's natural.

There is an obvious difference in ability between Mars-san and the werewolves.

A overwhelming difference that you can't filled up even if you try.

Limits that can't be visualized.

Mars-san is way too strong.

(Ah....)

I ended up writhing.

For having the luck to meet such a male by chance, it was enough to make Raphie wants to thank the Almighty God Jupiter.

There is no other chance to meet such a male.

That's why I have to capture Mars-san's heart no matter what.

But, rather than that, should I just make an established fact from the start?

Creeping into the dormitory today, and share the night with Mars-san.

Raphie thought of such a lewd plan,

However, there is a problem.

(Elisha-san is his roommate, right....)

It was the time when I thought of what to do.

The battle had ended.

Of course, Mars-san and Elisha-san won.

The fact that Raphie's to-be partner overwhelms other males is something to be happy about.

Though that itself is something to be happy about, what happen immediately after that was a problem to Raphie.

In front of Raphie, Mars-san and Elisha-san started flirting with each other.

* Mars POV *

As the battle concludes, the crowd is dispersing.

"Never did I thought the degenerate would win....."

"Ah, it was unexpected."

"Or more like, isn't Rusty too deplorable?"

The people who dispersed were making such conversations.

"Good grief, It's a heavy loss today."

"A small amount of potion was..."

Hey, wait a second.

Did you use it for gambling?

Who is the boss?

Just when I thought there was quite a number of spectators, it's because of that, I think.

Immediately after I found out the truth,

“Both of you, your distance is too close!”

Between Elisha and I, Raphie wedged her body in, ~Gui~.

Her expression was a thorny displeased one.

“Ah....”

As said by Raphie, Elisha backed out his body in a panic.

He also averted his eyes when he was at it.

Elisha's face was still red.

No, it feels like it became even more red than just now.

Though it could just be me.

“Seriously. I can't even let my guard down.”

A pouting Raphie.

I wonder what she is angry about?

“....both of you, were you injured?”

But, it seems like she was worried.

“Ah. I am fine.”

“Me too. There was some level of damage after all.”

As he received attacks of that extent, Elisha’s body was marked by bruises, but Healing magic should instantly recover injuries of this level.

Wonder if Raphie was relieved.

As if feeling relieved, she breathed out.

“But.... what should we do with this guy?”

This guy refers to the fallen werewolves on the ground.

As expected, I don’t think we can just leave them just like this?

“....what, what should we do?”

Elisha who gave a wry smile.

But, it seems that Elisha also think that it’s not good to leave it just as it is.

“Should we move all of them over to the medical office?”

As I asked,

“——you all can just return to the dormitory.”

The answer came from unexpected place.

The one who answered was the black-hair spectacled Elf, Alicia.

“We will take care of the rest from here.”

“Is that okay?”

“Yep. Rusty had brought trouble to you people. I would like to apologize as a fellow 3rd year student.”

Alicia lowered her head.

As I thought, she is a really serious person.

Even though it’s not her fault, she lowered her head for someone else.

“Pr, President, Please stop. We are fine after all.”

Elisha in panic

Now I think about it, Alicia was also called President just now, right?

Is it some kind of nickname?

“Hey, why are you called ‘President’”

“ ”

“ ”

“ ”

In this place, other than me, ——Elisha, Raphie, Alicia, the sights of the 3 person turned towards me all at once.

“...Ma, Mars, could it be, you have no idea about President Alicia?”

Elisha curved his eyes.

Raphie was giving a wry smile.

“I know. A 3rd year with a name of Alicia Restent, right”

The introduction was made not long after all.

“Ah, no.. that’s not what I meant.....”

Then, what do you mean?

Elisha and Raphie was minding Alicia, ~Chira, Chira~

I looked at Alicia.

As I thought that our eyes met, Alicia opened her mouth.

“... there wasn’t enough consideration for the transfer student. Allow me to re-introduce myself.”

Though I was looking straight at Alicia,

“Committee Community——I am the student council president. Alicia Restent.”

In the re-introduction, the post of student council president was added.

Chapter 29 - After School ⑥ Rumor

The student council.

It is a community that's composed of top-class students, was what Raphie told me just now.

"Hee.. So Alicia is the top of the student council, I see."

I see.

That's why she called out to me when I came to the institute.

I heard that maintaining the institute's public order is also one of their activities.

If that's the case, it's natural that they will be cautious if there was a suspicious student.

"....Mars-kun, can't you use honorific?"

Lania also seems to have said something similar when we were talking to the principal.

Alicia-senpai seems to be one is noisy in regards to hierarchical relationships.

If I don't fix it, it feels like I will get warned every other time.

"Sorry, Alicia-senpai"

I decided to just honestly apologize.

“...good. Even so, you have also quite the skills. To think that you didn’t break a sweat fighting that number of opponents.”

Though the one fighting is Elisha

I just dodge the attacks though.

Not defeating a single one of them.

“...I wonder if I should say as expected of Instructor Lania’s favourite.”

Favourite?

Somehow this expression gives an uncomfortable feeling.

Well, as the one who invited me here was Lania, it can’t be helped that it was thought that way,

“Though your appearance lacks of sincerity, it seems like you are quite the skilled person.”

(Nono, it’s from your perspective that most of the students look that way, I think...) (TL: Believe he is talking about the sincerity portion.. haha!)

Of course, I didn’t say it out.

If I said it, most likely she will give out guidance again.

“Senpai is the student council president, the top, right? In that case, is the senpai the strongest in the institute?”

Before I get warned, I decided to talk with honorific.

For the sake of the future, it might be best to start practising using a little

honorifics.

It's to the point of how Alicia's sharp observation that I am seriously thinking of that.

"If your question is towards combat ability, then I am not the strongest."

Alicia's reply was unexpected.

The student council president is the top of the gathered top-class students.

That's why certainly, the combat ability should be quite something, without doubt.

That was what I thought though.

"I am just outstanding but not the strongest."

That seems to be Alicia's self-evaluation.

If she is going to say it so plainly,

"Then that means there are students stronger than senpai, is that correct?"

"I am the first in terms of being the student with the excellent results defined by the Adventurer Training Institute."

Ah, I see.

That's why she evaluate herself as the most superior student, I see.

Even if she is better in terms of results, there is someone stronger than her, if it's just combat capability.

President is likely thinking about that.

“But, when it comes to combat capability, there is without doubt one that is more capable than me.”

Strength that is recognised by the superior.

A student that the student council president, the top, would say without hesitation that is stronger than her.

I wonder what kind of a student is that person?

If I meet that person, I would certainly like to ask for a duel.

“That student is——”

In the student council? As I was about to ask that,

“Mars-kun, the next time you are free, do come to the student council community room.”

My words were interrupted by Alicia’s

“He.....?”

“You have interest in the student council, right? I will tell you more in detail.”

No, it’s not like I am really interested in the student council though....

Looks like asking a couple of things seems to have caused a misunderstanding.

“For now, let me finish tidying up these stupid wolves. Elisha is also fine with this? Or do you wish to entitle them the punishment yourself?”

Punishment.

I wonder what you would do exactly?

I looked in the direction of Elisha.

The questioned Elisha without looking like he thought too deeply,

“No, no way.... I am fine after all...”

He said that while giving a bitter smile.

“I see. To some extent, I will give a stern warning. Just that, our authority is only to mobilize to maintain the minimum level of public order. If it’s trivial trouble, it’s possible that you will have to solve on your own again.”

In the event you are attacked, do something about it yourself.

I believe that is what Alicia is trying to say.

A institute with the doctrine of strength.

In times of trouble, solve it on your own.

If you didn’t like it, you can only use force to silence it.

Yesterday, Lania did say that, didn’t she? (TL: WAIT YESTERDAY!!!! How long have I been translating this?) (Ru: Many weeks)

I looked again at Elisha.

Elisha also looked in my direction,

“At that time, I will turn the tables on them!”

Towards Elisha’s reply, Senpai smiled as if satisfied.

“Also Elisha, after getting back your self-confidence, do return to the student council. I will be waiting.” (TL: Please wait for Mars instead :P)

After leaving, she said that to Elisha.

Now that I think of it, Elisha is said to be an ex-member of the student council.

Elisha could have been quite close with senpai.

Then, we make our way to return.

As Raphie is in the female dormitory, we separated mid-way.

“Can I come for a night visit?”

When we separated, she asked such a question.

“Elisha is also in, you know?”

“Please do not worry!”

“No, what do you mean by not worry——”

Without being able to say anything, Raphie returned to her dormitory.

Most likely, it’s a joke, I guess.

.....It’s a joke, right?

I will take it as a joke. (TL:..... Buwahahahah!!!! hAHHAHAHAH!!!!)

* Alicia’s POV *

The sun has set, and veil of darkness has started descending.

As the bell has already rang, the people in the dormitory should be starting to have their meals by now.

I wonder if Mars-kun and his group have reached the dormitory.

As I think of that, I gave out a sigh.

“Seriously, caused me so much trouble.”

Right now, the infirmary is buried with the werewolves.

Alicia used magic to move them.

I really spent my time on such useless stuff.

Though Sister wanted to cast some Healing-type magic, I couldn't forgive that.

It was injuries that they brought it upon themselves.

I don't think there is any need for healing.

This is the Adventurer Training Institute.

If you are really aiming to become an adventurer, you can't expect other people to assist.

No matter what situation, one must attain the power to survive on his own, only then you have become an adventurer.

And, this level of injuries won't kill anyone anyway.

..... At any rate.

As expected, Rusty have way too much problematic conduct.

Since 1st Year , we have been in the same Class A.

Survived till the 3rd Year, though we have spent our time in this institute since then, the problematic conduct he has made was since the 1st year.

If there are students weaker than him and doesn't abide to him, he will inflict violence on them.

Since he have been doing such worthless things, this werewolf is on the

lowest rank of the 3rd years.

He does have the combat talent.

That is something even I acknowledge.

But, if the person himself have no motivation, nothing can be done.

If he could somehow rousing himself, he should be slightly better than his current self though....

.... This time, after losing to a 2nd year, would he rot even further?

Or would it rouse him?

That's something to see.

But, to a 3rd year that lost to a 2nd year, it's necessary to put in a little motivation.

Let's not say Mars-kun who have been recommended by Instructor Lania, he was defeated by Elisha who was still in his rehabilitation.

Not only that, it's setting a bad example for a 3rd year to be defeated by a 2nd year.

Perhaps, there is possibility that there are some 3rd year students that might come out to meddle as well.....

No.....

(That's not possible...)

If I think of it calmly, there isn't any student who would think of getting revenge for Rusty who is a hated lone wolf.

Rather than that, the problem is the 3rd years aren't big of a deal.

There might be students that appear to have that misunderstanding.

This time, Elisha won because Mars is there. (TL: Wasn't it Mars-kun?)

If Elisha continued to fight alone, Rusty would have won with high probability.

Originally, it was a battle Elisha wouldn't have won.

Without being quite the talent, the difference of 1 year is big.

For a 2nd year to defeat a 3rd year is difficult.

That's why you can't strike back.

I don't think there are people who can't make that obvious judgement, but there is always exception.

The society isn't made up of just excellent people.

後顧こうこの憂うれいを断ち、万全を期す。(TL: A phrase)

Removed the worries for the future, and be prepared with no oversight.

For that reason,

(... is there any good method?)

And, just thinking for a bit, I thought of an ingenious idea.

There is a simple method to remove the disgrace of the 3rd year as a whole.

Rusty lost to Mars-kun.

I just have to do that.

The transfer student that came in suddenly in a bang.

Plus, he is also Instructor Lania's favourite.

To lose to Mars-kun, even the 3rd years also can't help it.

Certainly, students who think that way would increase.

He has far less injuries right now compared to Elisha-san who defeated him but was also ridiculed as the degenerate by the 2nd years.

And the 3rd years would also not want to put a finger on the instructor's favourite, MARS-kun.

If anything happens, it is possible that they will receive the instructor's backlash.

They will think of that certainly.

Yep. This is quite a good plan even if I say so myself.

Though I will end up telling lies, this is for the sake of the honour of the 3rd years and also the public order of the institute.

(Sorry, both of you.....)

As I apologize in the depths of my heart, I decided to spread this rumor.

(Maybe I should use the News community....)

The News community is a community that is useful at a time like this.

▪ News

A community that aims to release and gather news.

Very little members and are not being recognised officially.

Operating under the direct control of the successive student council president.

Basically, it is a community for the student council president.

Other than the successive student council president, there is no one who know of its existence.

But, its capability is definite.

From the previous student council president, the member of this community comes from a clan that is on a different continent across the ocean.

They were said to be part of a clan called 'ninja' on that continent.

After leaving the infirmary, I called out the chairman of the News community.

And then, out of nowhere, a figure appeared from the shadow.

This community member has an exact appearance with the description of lying dormant in the darkness.

“... as usual, what a strange magic.”

“...what business do you have?”

As a black cloth is being used to cover the face, I couldn't see the expression.

Not just the face, the whole body was in black.

Though there was once where I asked them why are they wearing such clothing, it seems to be the uniform of the ninja.

“I wish that you can spread a rumor.”

“Rumor?”

“That the 3rd year Rusty have been defeated by the 2nd year transfer student Mars by the most awful method. I guess you can also spread the fact that Mars is Instructor Lania’s favourite.”

“— —I understand”

Just saying that, the ninja disappear into the darkness again.

“Well then, what’s left is Rusty’s punishment....”

Since this time I have been quite troubled, shall we do a close-cropped head?

Shall we also shave off the fur of the ear?

No, that’s is expected too pitiful so I will exempt the fur on his ears.

The head being slippery, and the ears being furry.

I am looking forward to the reaction of Rusty when he wakes up.

I, then, returned to the infirmary.

For the sake of making Rusty a only-ear-has-fur bald head.

Chapter 30 - Elisha's Secret ① – After Returning to the Room, There Was...

* Mars's POV *

Soon after returning to the room, the chime for dinner rang.

"Elisha, shall we go for our meal earlier?"

"Ah.. sorry. I will do that later."

"Then, I will go for a bath first, so how about after I returned?"

"I got it. Then, I will prepare myself till then."

I went out of the room and make my way to the bath.

About to go down the stairs....

(Ah.. crap...)

I forgot to bring my soap.

If I have already reached the bath, returning would be troublesome, but I have not went down the stairs.

I started turning back.

Returning to the front of the room, I opened the door. (TL: Finally that flag is here.. lol)

".....eh?"

"huh....?"

Elisha who was turning around.

Top-naked.

No, that's fine.

There's not really any problem.

What problem is there to take off your clothes in your own room.

There's none.

There's none normally.

There shouldn't be any problem.....

“.....a.....a....”

There were breasts.... (TL: Kita!!!! Kita kita kita!!!! TL: It's here!! It's here it's here it's here!!!)

If it's a guy, it should have been a flat chest with nothing attached.

At that chest, there are two plump and soft-looking hills on it.

That's obviously that.

The symbol of Motherhood.

That means Elisha is

“Elisha, you are...”

“l.....lyaaaAAA!!!!

A scream.

A high-pitched female scream.

Elisha's scream.

Wait wait. Doesn't this look like I did something bad?

....no, did I do something?

...now, am I a pervert that peeped at a naked female?

“As expected, a pervert!?”

I pondered about the words Elisha told me yesterday in my head.

Then, I am really going to be accused with the infamy of a pervert.

Let's calmly confirm the situation by asking Elisha.

“E..Elisha....”

“Ge.. Get out!!!!!!!”

.....O...Owa!

A magic gem was thrown at me.

I ended up dodging it by reflex.

And then, things came flying one after the other.

Whatever that were at that area were thrown over.

There doesn't seem to be any room for a conversation right now.

After judging that, I rushed out of the room.

Immediately closing the door, I confirmed my surroundings.

No one at all.

Looks like there wasn't anyone that heard the uproar and came over.

(I am saved....)

I felt like I just have a narrow escape from death.

Most likely everyone was going to the canteen.

If Elisha's scream was heard, who knows what would have happened by this

time?

“Ha....”

But, I still can't be relieved just yet.

The me right now have lost my destination after all.

(What should I do from now on.....)

At the second day of entry to the dormitory, I have lost my place of residence.

* Elisha's POV *

(I..I have been seen...)

I was seen naked.

Mar's eyes was staring at m..my breasts.

What should I do?

I was careless.

To confirm the injury inflicted by the werewolves, it was a bad choice to take off my clothes.

I was about to use recovery magic on the bruise on the abdomen.

At that time——the door opened.

As I turned around, Mars was there.

I never thought that Mars would return.

It felt as if the time has stopped.

Mars opened his eyes wide. (Since in English, we don't say our eyes get rounded but wide, i guess)(ED: He just wanted to see better (◡‿◡)).)

At the end of his sight is obviously my.. my breasts.

Stared at it.

Fixedly at it.

I am exposed.

I was found out by Mars.

Absolutely, with no doubt, I was found out.

My secret——The fact that I am a girl was exposed.

What should I do?

What should I do?

What should I do from here on?

Try to deceive?

Even so, how?

What Mars saw was a hallucination!

Please believe me——As if that will work!

What the hell am I thinking?

If I can use illusion magic, then at least it's still possible, but I can't use something like that.

In the first place, until yesterday, I can't use magic at all, can I?

So what should I do?

Will Mars speak of this to anyone?

If that's the case, wouldn't I have to leave the institute?

(I can't....!)

I absolutely can't let this happen

I have not become stronger.

I must become stronger.

For that reason, I enter the adventurer training institute.

Become Strong, Become strong enough to not be look down upon, to the

point they are unable not to recognise me.

That's why I can't leave this place

Leaving this place.

That choice is an absolute no.

Then, what should I do?

Calm down.

Think calmly.

Right now, it's only Mars who knows.

If it's Mars, wouldn't he keep silence about it?

If I explain my situation, wouldn't he understand?

Though I chased him out unreasonably just now, that was because I was surprised and stunned.

I ended up throwing various things at Mars

Perhaps, Mars might be angry.

I have to apologize.

First, let's meet up.

Apologize.

And explain my situation.

Let's request to keep my circumstances a secret.

Now that I have decided, I have to meet up with Mars first.

Where is Mars right now, I wonder?

I wonder if he is still in the dormitory?

No, perhaps.— —

(He's possibly already reporting to the institute....!?)

Thinking of the bad possibilities, things were progressing in that direction.

I rushed out of the room in a haste.

Chapter 31 - Elisha's Secret ② The time after opening...

* Mars POV *

It can't be helped if I was confused in front of the room.

But for now, let's wait until Elisha calms down.

I thought as such and went downstairs.

(Even so...)

Is what I saw just a short time ago a dream or an illusion?

That is, the chest, is something which only a woman has.

(...In other words, it's that kind of thing?)

Though it will end up being me answering my own question, no matter how you think, there is only one answer.

Elisha's gender...

(is a female, right....)

Why is she pretending to be a man?

Is there some reason for it?

If there is no reason, she wouldn't disguise as a guy right?

Then, what is that reason?

As I ponder,

"Opps——"

"——you, where are you looking——"

When I was going down to the first floor, I ended up knocking onto someone.
When I confirm the other party,

“Ah—”

He opened his eyes wide.
I wonder what happen?

“Oh, sorry——”

As I opened my mouth to apologise,

“I am really sorry for looking away.”

His head was lowered with tremendous force,

“After this I’ll be extremely careful, so please forgive me.”

No, it’s not necessary to lower your head so many times.

“...nah, it’s fine. Don’t fret about it, alright?”

“Are you forgiving me?”

“Ahhh.....”

Forgiving or not, I wasn’t planning to punish you or even was angry in the first

place though

“Thank you so much! Thank you so much.”

“...aaaah...”

“Thank you for your tolerant heart.

It’s unforgivable I didn’t tell you the truth. I’ll leave so forgive me.”

And after lowering his head a few times, that student hastily went up the stairs.

“....?”

That was quite the weird guy.

Or more like, isn’t he too faint-hearted?

Even though they are in this institute, I guess it doesn’t mean everyone is wild.

Though it’s fine that I went down to the first floor, what should I do from now on?

There wasn’t any plan.

The original plan was to enter the bath, have my meal and sleep.

But, with that incident.....

If I let time pass, I should be able to talk to Elisha though...

For now, I should kill time by having my meal, i guess.

....but, I also made a promise to eat with Elisha.

Perhaps, it’s possible that after Elisha’s mood change for the better, she could want to eat together.

(... I guess I should wait until last moment before dinner ends.)

By then, Elisha might also come out from the room.

For the time being, I wonder where should I go to kill..... un?

(What's wrong...?)

I noticed glances towards me.

It's not just one or two.

All students of the first floor have their sights moved towards me.

"Hey, that person seems to be Mars-san."

"Ah, the one said to have put Sail-senpai in his place yesterday at the canteen."

It could hear such conversations from the whispering voices.

"Something about a welcome party event, he defeated Sail-senpai in one hit."

"One hit!? Against that Sail-senpai?"

I wonder if it's the lower classmen.

It seems like there were talking about the incident that happen in today's lesson.

"He seems to have picked a fight with Rusty-senpai, you know?"

"Ah. The werewolf students were said to have been the sacrifices."

"Really? Now that you mentioned it, senpais have not come to the canteen yet, right?"

Hey, wait a second.

Why is it like I was the one who pick a fight?

And plus, those werewolves were defeated by Elisha, not me.

“He is said to be also Instructor Lania’s favourite.”

“Eh.... that Crimson of the Blazing Prison!?” (TL: Seems like Infe(インフェ) is supposed to be “炎獄”, while Runo(ルノ) being “紅”)

Crimson of the Blazing Prison?

To think Lania was actually called something like that.

I wonder if that’s what you call an alias?

I have heard before that skilled adventurers have an alias.

It’s not someone has intentionally given such a name.

Just that, as rumors spread, popular adventurers ends up getting called by their alias without knowing when it happen.

If you reach that extent, it might mean that you have become a top-notch adventurer

(Crimson of the Blazing Prison....)

Most likely, it’s a name that comes from that red hair of hers.

And, she likely have burnt a monster to death using Fire-type magic.

That sight can be easily imagined.

“Ah...”

As I imagined that, the students conversing seems to have noticed that I was looking at them so,

“Let’s return, shall we?”

One person, and another, greet me before, going up the stairs.

“...”

Am I being avoided?

Seems like the dramatised news is being spread around.

“Well, I guess it’s fine. For now, it’s dinner time.”

At the time I attempt to make my way to the canteen,

“Wha——”

Maybe moving towards to the canteen, the werewolf Sail came down from the stairs.

“Hi”

As I greet him lightly and tried to pass by,

“H, hey”

“?”

I was called out.

I wonder if he wanted to talk about something?

“....”

But he doesn't say a thing.

“If there is nothing important, I will be going.”

“Che— —.... I, I have something to talk about.”

I wonder what is it about.

Don't tell me he wants to challenge me to a duel?

“.... it's hard to talk here. Please come to my room.”

“Your room?”

“Ah. It's just a quick talk.”

I wonder what business does he have?

Something hard to talk about?

I hope it's not something like Don't tell me he is actually also a girl!!!!!! ? (TL: -
_”)

....guess no, that would be not possible as expected.

No matter how you look at him, Sail is a guy.

Elisha has quite the gender-neutral features, so even if you tell me she is a girl, there isn't really any uncomfortable feeling in regards to that.

Or more like, in actual fact, she is a girl after all.

Haaa.....

Just remembering that, my mood got heavier.

I wonder what should I do to make her mood better?

“If you can’t, it’s fine here as well....?”

To the hesitating me, Sail said that.

Seems like he thought that I didn’t wanted to go.

(Well, I don’t really have anything to do anyway..)

Nothing can be done even if I worry about it.

Let’s put that aside for now.

That’s likely the best.

After that, let’s try returning to the room.

As I made that decision,

“I am okay with that.”

And then, I walked towards Sail’s room.

Chapter 32 - Elisha's Secret ③ – Sail's Apology

It was when Sail and I got to the 3rd floor.

The sound of a door opening with plenty of vigor, Don!, could be heard.

Sail and I turned to look towards the direction of the sound.

And then, what came into sights, was a running female fluttering her silver hair.

Or actually — — Are?

“— —M, Mars!?”

It was Elisha.

Realizing it was me, Elisha stopped her feet in a panic.

I wonder if she perhaps was trying to catch up with me, and ended up rushing out from her room.

“Th, that just now....”

“Ah....”

I could feel a slight awkwardness.

Though there were plenty of stuff that needs to be said, words aren't coming out.

First of all, I think it's better that I apologize for what happen just now.

“....?”

Sail knitted his eyebrows.

Looking at us in wonder.

Elisha went “Ha——” as she saw Sail.

Now, she finally realized Sail’s existence.

That was the face she had.

“S,Sail! Why are you with Mars?”

“a——”

Sail kept his mouth shut.

“Don’t tell me you plan to do something to Mars!?”

“Don’t be suspicious of such weird things! I just wanted...”

Wanting to say something, Sail kept his mouth shut again.

If this continues, it seems like we won’t get anywhere.

“...for now, shall we go to Sail’s room?”

“M,Mars, is that okay?”

Elisha gave out a bewildered voice.

What I said is likely something unexpected to her.

“Ah, it was the original plan after all.”

“If Mars is fine, then I don’t really mind though.....——Hey, can I come along as well?”

Not asking Sail, but me.

Is she worried about me?

“I am fine, but....”

I looked at Sail.

“....——Suit yourself.”

Then, as if spitting out his words, Sail started walking again.

We also began following him from behind.

Seeing the figure of Elisha walking beside me, I felt relieved.

She came out of the room earlier than expected.

Though I wanted to quickly hear from her, seeing that reaction from Elisha, she is sure to want to keep her identity as a girl hidden.

In that case, it's best that we talk about it when it's just the two of us.

“It's here.”

Sail stopped his feet in front of the leftmost room of the third floor.

“We were on the same level.”

It seems our room was the exact opposite of Sail's room.

Sail opened the door.

As he urged us to enter the room, we did as told.

“Where’s your roommate?”

Though it’s obviously natural, our rooms are of the same construct.

The room’s wideness, desk, bed and others are exactly the same.

I guess everything are all provided by the institute.

I believe the only things different are personal belongings.

Though a two-man room, there is totally no indication of a roommate.

As they are stuff on the desk, it’s not like there is no roommate though.

“He’s not in right now. About this time, he should be sleeping in the medical office.”

“I see. Is he feeling bad?”

“...Something like that.”

Though there was a short pause, Sail answered like that.

“Then, what is the reason for bringing us here?”

“...there is something I wanted to ask.”

Unlike the wild impression of Sail, he changed to a meek expression.

What on earth does he want to know?

“Today, I heard that you fought with Rusty-senpai. Is that true?”

Rusty is that werewolf that Elisha fought against, right?

Including verification, I faced Elisha who is next to me.

And then, Elisha agreed with a slight movement.

“Ah. But, the one who fought was Elisha, you know?”

“Him....!?”

Sail gazed in wonder.

But, he quickly started giving a wry smile as if amazed.

“Hey hey, don’t make such worthless lies!”

“It’s not a lie, you know? Elisha fought and defeated him. Isn’t that right?”

“.....Y, yeah.”

“Defeated.... You say?”

Seeing that Elisha nodded towards my words,

“How did you, a degenerate, defeat Rusty-senpai? Huh?”

Sail raised his voice as if threatening.

This guy, what is he angry about?

“You defeated him with magic, right?”

“....yeah”

“Huh....?”

Seeing Elisha nodding, Sail gaped in shock and gave an idiotic face.

“Magic? You managed to use magic again?”

“Not totally though.”

“...you are joking, right?”

“No, there is no reason to joke about that, right?”

As I said that,

“Haa.....”

And then, Sail gave out a sigh, while dropping his hips on the bed as if he lost his strength.

“...then, Rusty-senpai didn't lose to you, but to Elisha?”

At last, this fellow Sail is starting to believe in it.

I started to tell Sail about what I did that time.

Elisha added some supplementary explanation saying,

“It's not that I won with just my strength.”

Though she said something like that, even if I wasn't in that place, I believe Elisha would have also won.

Sail, who listened silently to the end,

“I see....”

As the conversation ends, he covered his face.

“In the end, what is it that you wanted to ask?”

“...I heard that you guys fought with Rusty-senpai. Also, the fact that at that time, quite a number of werewolves were taken down.”

I wonder if he is planning to take revenge for those werewolves?

But, Sail doesn't show any behaviour of making an assault.

“Don't misunderstand. I called you here is to apologize.”

“Apologize?”

Why?

He didn't do anything that needs apologising though.

“....I am the reason why you guys were attacked by the werewolves.”

Sail is the reason?

What is going on?

“As I thought....”

Elisha was the one who said that.

It seems like Elisha realized it.

“What’s going on?”

“Most likely, those werewolves came to take revenge for Sail.”

“...Yeah.”

Though Sail seems disgusted, he admitted honestly to Elisha’s words.

“Revenge? Why towards Elisha and I?”

“Well, that is because Mars defeated Sail.”

“...”

This time, Sail was speechless.

But, as there was no denial, it seems like it is also correct.

“I will say it first that it’s not something I have requested. But, that is a trait of us, the werewolves.”

Sail started explaining.

It seems that the werewolves have the strongest awareness for the herd compared to any other beast race of this world.

Even without blood relations, werewolves in the herd are family.

If a mate is taken down, another fellow would definitely move to take revenge one after the other.

Until the opponent is hunted dead, that revenge will not end.

“Most likely, they heard that I was taken down by you from someone.... That’s why Rusty-senpai was trying to take revenge on you.”

I see.

That’s why there were that many werewolves.

“Well, if it’s a trait, then it can’t be helped.”

“..... just that?”

“Un? What do you mean?”

“Don’t you have any complaints for me?”

Complaints?

“You, do you wish that I complain about you?.... Do you have such inclination?”

It seems like there were people who feel pleasure from pain in this world.

Though I have no intention of giving opinions of another’s preferences, I wasn’t expecting Sail to be such a person.

“Don’t misunderstand! Aren’t you guys attacked because of me? You could have been injured or even worse, dead! Even then, why can you be so composed!?”

“Even if you say composed....it’s not like Elisha or I were dead, you know?”

“Even so, it’s true that you were attacked, right!? The one who caused that is me! If that’s the case, return the favour!”

....ah, I see.

It's natural if you were attacked, you should return the favour.

That's what he is thinking, i guess.

To the werewolves, that might have been natural but,

“That's unnecessary, right? Plus, the one who actually fought was Elisha, wasn't it? Elisha, what do you want to do with Sail?”

“Eh, I, me.....?”

Sail looked straight at Elisha.

Likely due to me suddenly dumping the conversation on her, Elisha seemed to be bewildered but,

“Nope, I am not really keen on that...”

For some reason, she was being modest.

Actually, it is true that Elisha suffered from the trouble, so even if she complained a bit, it's fine.

“But, as expected, i would prefer that we would not be attacked everyday, I guess.”

She said that, giving a wry smile.

“What's with you guys.....”

Sail hugged his head.

Seems like he is really bewildered over it.

“In the first place, if we think about it from the werewolves’ trait, since you didn’t apologize, they have to keep taking revenge on us, right?”

After all, Elisha ended up defeating multiple werewolves.

After giving out my doubt, Sail raised his head.

“The me right now, no, even if we grouped up and attacked, we can’t win against you.”

“That’s why you won’t take revenge?”

“I thought I could take revenge on you. Because of me losing to you, my mates also tried to fight you. I thought that we might be killed by you.”

I will say no matter how many times, but the one who actually fought and won was Elisha.

Why is everyone thinking that I am the one who defeated them?

Don’t tell me there is someone spreading such rumors around?

.... I think that might be overthinking.

“If I didn’t lose, my mates wouldn’t need to fight with you.”

“....well, that does make it that way.”

“That’s why my mates aren’t to be blamed. If your anger have not subside, it’s fine to do whatever you want with me. In place of that, please forgive my mates.” (TL: I hope a girl would say that to Mars... uhm.. Actually, wouldn’t that make Mars the bad guy?)

Sail lowered his head.

This wild guy actually lowered his head for his mates' sake.

For his family, he threw his pride away.

"...so you are talking about that"

I will submit myself as I am the reason of the attack, so let my mates go... is what he is trying to say.

To say that, he dragged us all the way here.

"I have said just now, but I have no intention for revenge. Elisha and I are fine after all."

"...really?"

"Ah. You have no problems as well, right? Elisha."

"Yep. But, if possible, please refrain from further attacks."

"... for that, I will take responsibility and convey them to my mates."

There doesn't seem to be lies in Sail's eyes.

"As I don't mind being an opponent anytime, please tell them that it's fine to attack me any time they like."

"Huh?"

"If you wanted a duel with me, you are always welcome. But if you put a finger on Elisha, Raphie, on my friends, I will have no mercy at that time."

Though not a werewolf, I have decided that I will value all my friends and partners.

“I am the same as you. It’s a good thing to have strong feelings for your friends, right?”

My master also said frequently while still alive.

Protect your friends with your life.

That’s why.

I don’t find the actions of the werewolves wrong.

No matter what race you are, the feelings are the same.

No matter who, friends are important existences.

That’s a very natural thing.

“.....haha...”

Sail gave out a dry laugh.

“Though I thought I couldn’t stand you, you are quite a nice guy, aren’t you?”

“Is that so? But, I felt the exact same thing as you.”

And then, Sail and I started laughing.

Chapter 33 - Elisha's Secret ④ – The 3rd Friend

After that,

“Shall we go for dinner after this?”

Totally unexpected, Sail invited us for dinner.

Elisha and I unconsciously exchanged glances.

For an instant— —that scene floated in my head.

I wonder if Elisha wanted to talk to me as soon as possible.

But....is it really okay for us to be alone right now?

Elisha came out from the room earlier than I have predicted.

It doesn't seem like her mood was bad.

But, I wonder if we become alone as it is, would we be able to calm down and progress with the conversation.

I thought back about Elisha's reaction when I saw 'that'.

The various items that came flying towards to the face.

Surely, the room is still in a bad state with the items scattered all around.

It was totally not an atmosphere where you can talk that time.

And, not much time has not passed since then.

Yep.

Not yet, it might be best to just let time pass.

Also honestly, I can feel my empty stomach.

I believe if we were to talk after this, we might end up getting irritated from being hungry.

No, it will definitely end up that way.

Alright, let's have our meal first.

"Elisha, is it okay if we have our meal first?"

Is it okay if we have that conversation later?

As I tried to get confirmation with that meaning included,

".....ok. We did make that promise of eating together after all."

Seems like Elisha remembered that promise.

In that case, there is nothing to lament about.

Thus, accepting Sail's invitation, we made our way towards the canteen.

Likely due to having time passed slightly, the canteen seems to be rather in order.

From the kitchen, I could see the figure of Nirfa carrying the food to the counter.

As she approached the counter, Nirfa also realized our presence.

"Everyone, appreciate your hard work today! Looks like Sail-san is together today as well."

Just the same as yesterday, she showed her smile to us.

Full of liveliness.

In spite of handling the tough work of managing this dormitory, she doesn't show a single sign of being tired.

Certainly the Perfect Maid. (TL: Actually the author here used creative kanji

where the actual word 'Perfect Housewife/Housekeeper' was used to represent 'Perfect Maid' here.)

"Mars-san, I see that you have also make friends with Sail-san"

"....well, something like that"

For now, I just left it as that answer.

Sail didn't really threw any complains over.

Is it okay to presume that we became friends?

There's nothing from Sail's expression to judge at all.

.....Let's try asking the person himself later.

"Then, allow me to also add a special service today! Please first choose which meal you would like to have."

Today's Menu

- Roasted Duck, dressed with red wine
- Salt Pickled Steak, garnished with vegetables
- Salmon Meuniere (Herb Salt)

(TL: Hope it sounds as delicious as it intended to be.)

The above three.

Most likely it will be delicious no matter what I eat.

"Then, I will take the steak, i think."

The food was placed on the tray.

What a nice smell.

To remove the raw smell from the meat, I believe some kind of spice have been used.

It really stimulates the appetite.

I am also anticipating Nirfa's future cooking.

I wonder what would appear tomorrow.

“ ”

Elisha ordered Salmon Meuniere.

Sail got the same steak as me, having his placed on the tray.

“Now then, I shall attached Nirfa's special made——Special Drink for everyone.”

And then, she placed a drink filled in a bottle with a pop.

It was a colourless and transparent drink, like water.

“Thanks.”

“Thank you very much.”

Elisha and I gave our gratitude to Nirfa.

I wonder what in the world does it taste like?

As the drink is the same as water, I can't imagine the taste at all.

“.....Is it fine that I have it as well?”

As Sail asked that,

“Yep! It’s for a commemoration of friendship.”

Towards Nirfa’s full-faced smile, Sail warped his face twitching.

As we tried to sit on empty seats as suitable, students sitting at the side went and left the canteen.

Within those are obviously students that have not completed their meal.

“.....what’s this about?”

Though I have a weird feeling about it, as the surrounding seats are quite empty, we just find seats randomly and sat down.

Elisha and I are side by side.

And Sail is on the opposite side of me.

“.....seems like the rumor have considerably spread out.”

Sail said something like that.

“Rumor?”

“Rumor?”

Almost speaking out the doubt at the same time were Elisha and I.

“The rumor where Mars crushed Rusty-senpai.”

Now that you say it, there was quite the rumor spreading at the 1st floor dormitory just a while ago.

“It seems like it was spread rather dramatically.”

I will deny no matter how many times but, the one who defeated him was Elisha.

“It was something that just happen, right? It has already spread this much?”

“It seems that, you know? It also came to my ears without knowing when.”

It’s possible that in a funless and sealed space like the Adventurer Training Institute, a trifling rumor might end up spreading immediately.

And dramatising it half in jest, the information was being conveyed where it differed totally from the actual truth.

In fact, the situation right now is exactly that.

“This is the first time I have seen the canteen being this empty.”

“It was quite packed yesterday after all.”

Though it was a canteen where it was noisy with all the chattering yesterday, it is a place where whispering could be heard today.

“It seems like if I come with you, I would be able to eat my meals immediately everyday.”

Unexpectedly, Sail said that.

“What’s this? Do you want to eat with us tomorrow as well?”

“...not, it’s not about that.”

Sail averted his face.

This guy, is he embarrassed?

“Fufuu”

Elisha laughed to such a Sail’s reaction.

“Don’t, don’t laugh!”

“But, this is first time I see Sail being embarrassed after all.”

“I, I’m not embarrassed.”

These people, when did they get so friendly? (TL: Jealous? But aren’t you the one making that situation?)

Even though it seems quite bad yesterday.

“Could it be that both of you are actually close to each other?”

“Wrong!”

Sail stood up, shaking the chair with a clunk.

It was a violent rejection where it seems like he’s going to fly out from the

table even now.

“In that case, let’s get along, shall we?”

“Why must I be told that by you?”

“Well, that’s because we are friends, right?”

“.....huh?”

“Am I wrong? I was sure that since you invited us for a meal, it was that intention though?”

As I said that, Sail was dumbfounded, changing his expresssion.

Likely trying to say something, his mouth was flapping open and closed.

But, no words came out.

That’s why in exchange, I tried asking again.

“Friends, right?”

And then, Sail stiffened his expression.

“.....you would think of me as a friend?”

“Oh.”

“.....Is that so. Then,I guess I will be one then.”

Sail’s expression was stiff.

But, his heart is likely not.

After all, a certain portion of him is moving intensely.

“Fufu——”

Realizing that, Elisha started laughing again.

“Wh, Why are you laughing!”

“Well, I wonder why”

“Wh, What the hell!”

Sail who raised his voice.

But that could be Sail’s way of hiding his embarrassment.

As evidence, his tail was flapping over and over again.

Just like this, the 2nd male friend——.... No, wrong.

To me, Sail became my first male friend.

And then, I passed a noisy but enjoyable mealtime.

By the way, to add on, the special made drink that Nirfa made in exchange of the after-meal dessert, was a sweet and sour taste that goes down the throat well, a refreshing taste.

It is likely the most suitable drink to balance the taste after having a strong flavoured meal.

Chapter 34 - Elisha's Secret ⑤ – The Reason She has to be a Male

After parting with Sail, Elisha and I returned to our room.

The bed was scattered with things thrown at me, magic stone, magic and reading books.

Just having moved in for the second day, it's appropriate to say that it has become disastrous room.

"Let's clean up the room a bit"

Likely feeling that it was way too awful, the first thing to be said by Elisha after returning to the room was that.

And then, without saying a thing, she moved to clean up the scattered items.

I also thought that it would be good if I helped as well, but since the stuff scattered around were Elisha's personal items, I decided to not to assist.

Seeing something I should not be seeing, it will be troublesome if problems arise.

If she screams again, it will end up with me getting a dishonorable name of 'Pervert' this time.

"For now, this should be fine, I guess."

After finishing cleaning up, Elisha gave out a sigh.

And, she turned to face me.

"...."

"....."

Our eyes met.

But, both of us are speechless.

Though we have plenty of things to talk and ask about, words aren't coming out.

"F-for now, let's sit."

Both of us were still standing.

There's no way we can talk calmly like this.

"That's true."

Pulling out the chair from the desk, we sat our hips down.

Now then, where should we start talking about?

Elisha cast her (Ed: Yosh-chan, really? We already know Elisha is female now!)

eyes down.

From that look, she is likely troubled about where should she start talking from.

As expected, I wonder I should be the one to throw the question on her.

To start of, what should I start from?

Verification of her gender?

Elisha, you were a female?

Ask her like that?

But, from that look, she seems to be really trying to hide that.

In that case, I wonder if I should not touch that topic?

Or, should I convey that I didn't see a thing?

I also thought about saying that seriously but.....

(....that's impossible, I guess.)

Elisha's nude appearance has been burnt into my eyes. (TL: Pfftt...That's quite

a description)

A tensed body with no unnecessary fats.

However, only the breasts on her chest were femininely full.

And, the faint pink protuberance that is on the center.

.... To say it clearly, she is completely seen.

Because she realized that, Elisha also gave out a scream.

“——M. Mars!”

Unexpectedly, my name was called out with a powerful tone.

Of course, it was Elisha who called out my name.

“A, Ah”

As I was hesitating, it ended up in a half-hearted reply.

“Hey, you know.”

Likely because she is nervous, the words to continue weren't quite coming out.

Elisha's lips were trembling, and floated traces of sorrow.

“Ah”

This time, I managed to reply clearly.

And, I await the next words.

Honestly, I am not really sure whether should I be the one to start the

conversation.

A room filled with silence.

I wonder how much time have passed?

Elisha's eyes which had been piling up with hesitation, lighted up with determination,

“— —Please. The fact that I am a girl, please don't tell anyone about it.”

She bowed her head.

As expected, it seems like it's something that shouldn't be known.

Elisha continued to lower her head, without a sign of raising her head up.

Is she planning to continue until listening to my reply?

I guess she's that desperate.

To the point she has to request a favor like this to a friend.

I still have doubts.

But, I know what Elisha wants from me.

That's why,

"I got it. So please raise your head."

I have not heard her reason.

But, I answered that way.

"...is, is that fine?"

Elisha who raised her head to look at me.

Those eyes were slightly clouded, as if tears are going to spill out any

moment.

“It’s Elisha’s request after all.”

“Th...that’s a relief.....If I am found out, it’s possible that I might have to leave the institute.”

As if feeling relief from the bottom of her heart, Elisha’s face floated a smile.

She might be really worried about dropping out of school.

But,

“Just because you were actually a female, as I would expect, I don’t think you would have to drop out, right?”

This is an adventurer training institute that has its principles based on strength.

If you have the power, I believe gender are just trivial details.

Even if anything happens, there should be at most just some kind of penalty, i guess.

Even then, it's useless if I am not seen as a guy. There is no meaning in it if I am as a girl.

I wonder if there is any conviction behind it?

“If I am not a girl, no one would go easy on me!”

Elisha is very particular about becoming strong.

That is natural for the students in this institute.

But, her reason to become strong, is not because she wants to become an adventurer.

“.....I need to be recognised as strong by a certain person..”

Which is what Elisha said.

But to this, I wonder if it has something to do with Elisha having to be a guy.

“I wish to become strong.”

From those words, I can feel clear determination.

The feelings to become strong is, without doubt, for real.

But Elisha.

“It’s not like females can become strong, right?”

“.....we won’t.”

“You can.”

“I couldn’t. I couldn’t as a girl.”

“Though my master is a girl, she is stronger than anyone else, you know?”

“I am not so special! If I continue to be what I was like that time, I wouldn’t become stronger!”

Elisha was baring all her feelings.

From the expressed feelings, I could feel various thoughts mixing together.

“Why do you think that way? Is there a reason?”

“.....It’s something that can’t be helped, even if I say it.”

“I won’t force you if you dislike it. But, if you think it’s fine to talk about it, please tell me.”

“.....it’s just a boring story.”

“Even so, it’s fine.”

“Mars has strange tastes. Even though it’s boring.”

It’s not boring.

After all,

“I want to know more about my friend, about Elisha”

I conveyed my honest feelings.

The reason why does being a guy means strength.

I wish to know about the reason she arrives at the current Elisha.

I looked straight at Elisha.

Looking at me, Elisha hesitated for a moment,

“.....it’s about an uncool, miserable, sorrowfully weak girl.”

As she said that, a story of a young girl began.

Chapter 35 - Elisha's Secret ⑥ – Elisha's Past Part I

* Erisha's POV *

Since before I become aware of the things around me, I have something I wanted to be.

And it's to become a knight.

A knight stronger than anyone.

It have not change even now, and that is my only objective.

Even though you are a girl, why?

I was also asked that question.

At that time,

“I want to protect everyone, just like Tou-sama!”

Such an answer.

My family is of a lineage of knights.

Turning out large numbers of knights from generations to generations, in which includes Tou-sama who is prominently outstanding, he was an Imperial Guard under direct supervision of the king, after becoming the Capital’s 1st Knight Corp’s Captain, and acknowledged for his various achievements.

Tou-sama was my pride.

Maybe that’s why.

By the time I realized it, I had already picked up the sword as well.

Towards me who was a child, Tou-sama would say this.

“Eri, you have talent in the sword.”

He would pat my head, ~pon pon~, and smiled at me.

The fact that I was told that I have the talent.

The fact that Tou-sama was happy about it.

I couldn't help be happy about it, and continued swinging the sword everyday without rest.

At the age of seven, I tried participating in the Capital's Kenjutsu Tournament(?). (TL: Kenjutsu means sword techniques, Ken=sword, Jutsu=Arts/Techniques)

Even though they say it's a tournament, it's a small tournament where children of the same generation would join.

Other than me, the participants were males.

I was being unreasonable by asking Tou-sama to let me join.

And, I was the champion in that tournament.

It was the results of continuing swinging the sword.

“Did you see everyone, my daughter won!”

Tou-sama went around saying that to the surroundings.

“Eri is a genius! You will become a excellent knight!”

I too have that intention.

I believed that it would turn out that way.

“I will become a knight like Tou-sama!”

As I said that, Tou-sama would do what he does usually, patting my head,
going ~pon pon~

That large hand was gentle, warm, and gives me a peace of mind.

I loved my father.

Respected him.

Was my aim.

Was an ideal of mine.

From then on as well, as long as time allows, I will conduct sword practice.

On days when Tou-sama is around, there was also time when he joined in the practice.

Though I say practice, it was just Tou-sama receiving the strikes.

Now that I think of it, it was similar to mere child's play.

Even then, I was satisfied.

Even just a little, I felt that I was getting closer to my respected Tou-sama

“Since Eri is a girl, rather than sword, shouldn't you be doing piano or dance?”

Once in a while, Okaa-sama would bring this question out.

She might not have like the fact that I was endeavouring in the sword practice.

“Okaa-sama, I prefer the sword a lot more.”

As I said that, Okaa-sama gave a troubled expression.

But Okaa-sama also never forcefully make me stopped.

I believe both Tou-sama and Kaa-sama respected my feelings.

That’s why I continued wielding the sword.

8 years old, 9 years old, 10 years old.

The trophy won from the kenjutsu tournament were lined up at home.

Stopping my feet occasionally, Tou-sama smiled as he saw that.

I became happy.

I endeavored more into the sword practice.

It was around the time Tou-sama became the Imperial Guard.

My respected Tou-sama, became even a more respected Tou-sama.

And my feelings of becoming a knight became stronger

The me at that time believed in it with no doubts.

In the future, to become a knight that doesn't lose to anyone——I believed that I will become a knight just like Tou-sama.

But

“n——”

My wooden sword was repelled.

It was during the kenjutsu tournament when I was 11 years old.

I lost at the finals.

It was my first loss.

In front of Tou-sama who was watching.

“You are a girl, right? Why are you participating in a kenjutsu tournament?”

I was told by the opponent.

Even now, I still remembered that.

Just because I am a female?

I wonder what does that imply to?

The me at this time was unable to understand the reason of his words.

But, I was just feeling mortified over losing at that time.

My tears almost came out.

But, I endured it.

I did not want to let Tou-sama see me cry after losing.

“Eri, it was a pity.”

“Eh.....?”

Just as always, Tou-sama patted my head, ~pon pon~

But, that was all to what he said.

You did not have enough practice!

Your cut in is naive! (TL: cut-in, to move in to cut/attack)

Make your move faster!

Even though I thought he would say something strict.

But, I was relieved that he wasn't angry.

From then on, everyday, I endeavoured myself to more intense practice than before.

I did not want to feel mortified anymore.

I will certainly win the next tournament.

I continued wielding the sword with that feelings.

And then comes the kenjutsu tournament when I was 12 years old.

"Tou-sama, Please watch me! I will definitely become the champion!"

I swore to Tou-sama.

"I see. I will be looking forward to it."

Tou-sama smiled at me.

This time, I will definitely win.

I will make Tou-sama be delighted.

It was a tournament I desired with that feelings.

I won in the first and 2nd round.

But, I have a sense of discomfort.

I wasn't able to win as easily as in the past.

Even though I have been practising everyday to that extent to polish my sword techniques.

Even though I had definitely become stronger.

I also have that awareness of it.

But, I started to feel that the surroundings became even stronger.

And then the 3rd round.

My opponent was one that I had won against before.

I have never lost to him once before.

I should definitely be able to win.

As I thought that, I grasped my sword.

Just after starting, the opponent came cutting down.

Sword colliding with sword.

Trying to force it back, but I couldn't force the opponent's sword back.

As I pushed down strongly as it is, I fell down, and the sword I was holding onto ended up dropping down..

I could see a sword on top of my head.

It will hit.

But, that sword was not swung.

The judge stopped, and I lost.

Just on the 3rd round.

Even though I piled up many practices for the sake of winning, it was totally unable to show its results.

Even though I promised Tou-sama that I would win.

I wonder what was wrong?

Was it that my practice was not enough?

But, I can't get more time for sword practice.

I have to study at school.

To become a knight, you have to be able to at least read and write words.

One would also need to learn the etiquette of a imperial court.

It seems that it is required when greeting the people of the nobilities.

This was also said to be necessary by Tou-sama.

What should I do?

The time for sword practice is limited.

To the dumbfounded me, Tou-sama patted my head, ~pon pon~

As always, Tou-sama's hand were gently.

"Even though I promised to become the champion..... I am sorry"

I won't cry even if I lose.

That's what I have decided.

But, my tears would not stop spilling out.

"Eri.... if it's tough, it's fine to give up the sword, you know?"

Seeing me crying, Tou-sama said that.

I slanted my head to the side.

Did Tou-sama think that I became to not like sword arts?

That was how the me at that time perceived Tou-sama words.

But soon after, I immediately came to know that it was a misunderstanding.

Chapter 36 - Elisha's Secret ⑦ – Elisha's Past Part II

A period of time had passed since the kenjutsu tournament.

“Here, Eri”

Kaa-sama gave me a present.

It's a hair band?

It was a simple black string that doesn't feel particularly fashionable.

If it's this, it won't hinder my movement.

“Since your hair has become longer, it becomes a hinder when you swing your sword, right?”

It's fine even if I ended up cutting my hair.

But,

“As Eri's hair is beautiful, Kaa-san don't wish to have it cut.”

Since she said that and smiled, I silently tied up my hair with that hair band.

“It suits you.”

Kaa-san looked happy.

Me too, I was happy, looking at Kaa-san giving such an expression.

I became more zealous to my practices.

After a few days later, we went to the head Ojii-sama's

Kaa-sama is not with us.

Tou-sama only brought me with him.

Kaa-sama could have come with us

That was a day where we meet up with our relatives and have a meal together.

During the meal, I knew that Ojii-sama's strict glance was directed towards me.

It could have been due to my mistake in etiquette.

Even then, Ojii-sama doesn't say a thing to me.

After the meal, the children were to leave the room.

I think the adults have something difficult to talk about.

The males of the relatives started practising the sword in the courtyard.

I also decided to mix in the practice.

“Eri, let’s read a book together.”

I was called out.

A female relative

There had been a couple of times where we met up.

“I have sword practice, so”

I tried to reject.

“Eri, are you still doing kenjutsu?”

“...eh?”

“After all, Eri is a girl, right?”

Yep.

I am a girl.

But, what’s wrong with it?

“A lady should learn etiquettes and study to the utmost, is what Kaa-sama said.”

That’s likely for your family.

I have never been told that by Tou-sama and even Kaa-sama.

“But, Eri is always on kenjutsu. It’s not good if you don’t study and learn etiquettes.”

“I am going to become a knight. It’s more important for a knight to excel in martial arts over reading and etiquettes!”

Recently, I also intended to work hard on both study and etiquettes as well.

But, that is also for the sake of being a knight.

“Eri, did you not know? There are almost no female knights?”

I know.

Even in the kenjutsu competition, there aren’t any girls.

But, that’s unrelated to me.

“Even then, I will become a knight!”

“But, females can’t beat males right? After all, females are weaker in terms of strength.”

Can’t win against males.

At the kenjutsu competition, I couldn’t win.

That’s because I am a girl?

“Th, that’s not true! You can win!”

I got desperate.

“But surely, couldn’t Eri’s Tou-sama and group not want Eri to become a knight?”

“That’s not true!”

Tou-sama is always supporting me.

He would stroke my head if I worked hard.

Even Kaa-sama never told me that I cannot become a knight.

Towards my sword practice, she even gave me a hair band.

“Then, let’s go and ask right now.”

“I got it. That’s fine!”

And then, we went towards the guest room where the adults were.

After being brought to close to the guest room, I could hear voices talking.

“What age would that be this year?”

“12 years old.”

They are the voices of Tou-sama and Ojii-sama.

“I see. Already 12 years old, i see. Then, whose son do you plan to accept as a groom?”

“...no, not yet”

Accept as a groom?

(Who....?)

I wonder what Tou-sama and the rest are talking about?

Unintentionally, I stopped at that spot.

“Eri? Aren’t you going in?”

The girl looked at me strangely.

But, my feet wouldn't move.

“In that case, you should quickly decide without delay. We have to quickly have her give birth to a heir no matter what after all.”

Heir?

“However, Chichiue, Eri wants to become a knight...” (TL: Chichiue = Old-fashioned formal of Father)

Tou-sama told Ojii-sama for me.

The fact that I want to become a knight.

“A Knight?”

“Yes”

“That who is a girl wants to be a knight?”

Ojii-sama’s unexpected voice resounded in the room.

And then,

“Hahahahahahahh”

“Fufu, fufufufu”

“Ahahahaha, that is quite something.”

All the relatives present collectively laughed.

It was a mocking laughter.

I wonder if it is something weird?

“..... You, do you think that can become a knight?”

Ojii-sama was not laughing

But, it was a voice that was as strict as never before.

“....”

Tou-sama did not say a thing.

“Is becoming a knight an easy path?”

“ ... ”

Tou-sama wouldn't say a thing.

“If you wish your own child to become a knight, then you have to deliver a promising son.”

“But, as my wife is no longer at the age to give birth, so it's better to receive a groom as expected, isn't it?”

“That's correct. How about taking a mistress? If the mistress can give birth to a male, there will be no worry for a heir.”

“In the first place, it's because you married a girl whose origin is unknown.”

Tou-sama was aimed with an obvious sneer.

Is it because I am a girl?

That's why Tou-sama is receiving sneer mixed with sarcasm?

If that's the case, it's unforgivable.

The people in this place are unforgivable.

The fact that they make fun of Tou-sama is unforgivable.

The fact that they scorned Kaa-sama

But—what couldn't be forgiven the most is myself who is born as a girl.

If I were a boy, I wonder if this wouldn't have happen?

"See, Eri. As expected, everyone doesn't wish for Eri to become a knight."

The girl beside whispered such things.

I wonder if that's the case?

The fact that I am aiming to become a knight is bothering Tou-sama and Kaa-sama

“It’s bad to hinder Ojii-sama and the rest. Hey, let’s return to the room together and read a book.”

My hand was pulled.

Even then, I wasn’t moving away from that place.

I thought that everything would be for naught if I left this place while being pulled away from here as it is.

But if Tou-sama is going to give up, then.

At that time——

“Don’t go saying whatever you please!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

Never have I heard before, Tou-sama’s bellow resounded throughout the

mansion.

“Though I thought of keeping silent, when you opened your mouth, there are just vilification about my daughter and wife, so I will no longer keep quiet!”

Tou-sama has gotten angry.

Towards all the people that despised his family.

“Chichiue, I will have Eri become knight! I won’t let her receive a groom, nor will I welcome a mistress!”

Tou-sama said that to Oji-sama.

He said that he would make me a knight.

Just from that, all my doubts were blown away.

“Ojii-sama!”

I stepped into the guest room.

The surrounding glances concentrated on me.

“Eri..... did you hear that?”

Tou-sama opened his eyes wide.

And then, his face distorted as if feeling apologetic.

I didn’t want Tou-sama to make such a face.

I was really happy after all.

“I will become a knight! I won’t take a groom! I also won’t marry a noble!”

I think that it is the first time I said something clearly to Ojii-sama.

The surrounding relative were also shocked.

However, their eyes also changed to scorn instantly.

But, that doesn’t matter.

I have decided.

At this time, I have truly become determined.

Not that I want to become a knight.

But to definitely become a knight.

Hearing my swear, Tou-sama seems to be somehow proud

“Let’s go back. Eri.”

Saying that, we tried to leave the room.

“Wait.”

The supposedly silent Ojii-sama opened his mouth.

“....you have made your resolve, right?”

He silently asked.

Not towards Tou-sama.

Ojii-sama focused his stern eyes at me.

However, my determination will not waver.

“Yes!”

I replied without averting my eyes.

“...in that case, do as you like”

Not saying that it's impossible.

Also, not trying to scorn.

Not an order as well.

I gave my final expression of gratitude.

“Chichiue, stay healthy....”

Tou-sama said that to Ojii-sama.

The meaning of those words was something I couldn't understand yet.

I left the house with Tou-sama.

“Eri, that was splendid. As expected of my daughter.”

Tou-sama caressed my head.

It feels comfortable.

But,

“Tou-sama, I will become strong. I will become strong that I will lose to no one, and not be made fun of. And then, I will also become a knight that will protect Tou-sama and Kaa-sama. That's why please stop spoiling me.”

I know that it's not good for me to stay as me who is spoiled under the protection of Tou-sama and Kaa-sama.

"Please teach me the skills for the sake of becoming stronger."

To Tou-sama who heard my feelings,

"I got it. I will stop treating you like a kid. I will not say that it's fine to stop practising the sword. Eri, definitely become a splendid knight!"

He removed his hand from my head.

More than before, Tou-sama's powerful smile was clearly reflected in my eyes.

Chapter 37 - Elisha's Secret ⑧ – Elisha's Past Part III

From then on, Otou-sama increased the strictness of the practice.

He started putting attacks with the bokken(wooden sword), knowing that I might be injured.

Of course, he wasn't serious but compared to when he just received the attacks using the sword, it was more educational.

Above all, it's the fact that Tou-san is seriously teaching me kenjutsu.

I was really happy about that.

Though Kaa-sama was looking at the practice worriedly, she did not try to stop us.

I understood that she is able to sympathize with my feelings.

Whenever we returned home after a intense practice, Kaa-sama will always welcome us with a smile.

“Totally drenched in sweat. Eri, please enter the bath.”

That's why looking at a good time during the practice, she would boil the bath with fire for us.

The bath stings the wound.

But, not just that body, it seems like it warms the heart as well.

As I left the bath, Kaa-sama would comb my hair.

"Since you have such beautiful hair, you have to groom it properly."

Saying that, she will carefully stroke my hair.

Personally, I do not think that my hair was so beautiful.

After all, Kaa-sama's silver hair is even more beautiful.

“I also love Kaa-sama’s hair.”

“Really? Thank you. But Eri’s is more beautiful, you know?”

Kaa-sama, that is most likely what they call doting parents. (TL: Direct translations: Idiotic parents, in a funny way, not insulting.)

But, I am honestly happy.

After end of summer, and the arrival of autumn, it was the time when the cold is slightly stronger.

“Eri, do you have any intention to try learning magic?”

Tou-sama asked me such a question.

“Magic, you say?”

“Yep. Not just the sword, You will bump into a wall sooner or later.”

The inside of my hearts was rustling.

“I am not saying that you can’t become strong. You might be able to overcome it someday. But even then, it’s better that you learn magic.”

To become stronger with just the sword.

That was my ideal.

In actual fact, it seems that Tou-sama isn’t really good at magic, but just with the sword, he has quite the strength.

Though Tou-sama was being humble saying that his teacher was good, I believe Tou-sama has simply the talent for it.

That Tou-sama is telling me that it’s better that I learn magic.

In other words, it was as if declaring that in terms of kenjutsu, I have no talent for it compared to Tou-sama.

“I can only do kenjutsu. That is the only thing I can teach you. That’s why, I will continue to teach you kenjutsu.”

“Who would teach me magic then?”

“There is Kaa-san, right?”

“Kaa-sama?”

“Ahh, Kaa-san’s magic is amazing, you know! When Tou-san is still young, she had saved me multiple times.”

Previously I did hear that Kaa-sama was an adventurer.

I did see before the multiple magic books that were left in the room.

But, is Kaa-sama really able to use such amazing magic?

That gentle and kind Kaa-sama? (TL: Lol.. must the person be crazily epic-looking to use amazing magic?)

“As Eri is our child, I believe that you also have the talent of magic. Kenjutsu and magic, if you proceed to learn both, it will definitely be a powerful weapon.”

Towards Tou-sama’s words, my feelings swayed.

A strong weapon.

I was attracted to those words.

“...if I learn magic, would I be even stronger than I currently am?”

“Without doubt. Even if you can’t surpass Tou-san with just kenjutsu, you will someday become stronger than Tou-san if you can also use magic.”

I can become stronger.

Tou-sama clearly say that.

That gave a push on my back.

“I understand. I will learn magic.”

I decided to simultaneously learn both kenjutsu and magic.

As Tou-sama also has his job as an Imperial guard, though it's not like he can always be teaching me kenjutsu, as long as there is spare time, he will definitely accompany me in the practice.

“Eri has a talent for magic. As expected of my daughter!”

Kaa-sama who was teaching while holding a magic book with one hand.

Whenever I learn a magic spell, she would say that.

The magic spells that I learnt were the basics of basics.

They were magic that can be used by anyone who was taught.

“In this case, you will graduate from elementary level very soon.”

If that's the case, it's thanks to Kaa-sama.

Even if it's to the late hours, until I comprehend, Kaa-sama would thoroughly teach me.

Personally, I do not dislike the study of magic.

Though I do prefer kenjutsu, as I continued learning magic, I do know that I am more suited towards magic myself.

Though that said, it's not like I neglect kenjutsu.

I will work hard at both kenjutsu and magic.

I will take in anything that is necessary.

I have to at least do that much.

I did decide to become strong, than being protected by Tou-sama and Kaa-sama.

From then on as time passed, I was thirteen.

I participated in the kenjutsu tournament opened by the capital since a year ago.

It was an intense fight starting from the first match.

As expected, there is the difference in physical strength.

But thanks to receiving Tou-sama's sword, I don't feel the weight compared to the past.

If my strength is insufficient, then I will ward off the attack.

As I will lose in strength if I received the attack.

I understand the battle against an opponent who is physically stronger than myself.

But, even then, the result was a loss at the 3rd round.

Strangely, that opponent was the boy who I lost last year.

“You, you are still doing it?”

I was told that.

But, I wasn’t bothered by it.

Though I was quite vexed.

“It’s a pity.”

After the match, Tou-sama called out to me.

“....sorry, I couldn’t win.”

“If you use magic, I think Eri would have won, you know?”

That is something I thought myself.

Even keeping at a distance, I can release offensive magic, and I could also use Reinforcement-Type magic to strengthen my body ability.

But, this is a kenjutsu match.

“There is a way to win the opponent. Though you lost in a kenjutsu match, there is no need to be impatient.”

Saying that, as Tou-sama tried to caress my head,

“...let’s go back, shall we?”

As if he just remembered, he parted his hand in a panic.

To such a Tou-sama, it felt slightly weird.

After more time has passed, it became the the season of falling snow.

“Amazing, Eri! You have pretty much mastered the basis of elementary magic!”

It should be about one year since I started learning magic.

Kaa-sama was in high spirits about teaching advanced magic to me soon.

Eri’s aptitude for Fire and Light-type magic is high, it seems. That’s why I am thinking of teaching advanced magic with those two as the core of it.

As I thought of learning new magic, I became slightly excited.

Kaa-sama was also quite eager about it.

There was also a slight improvement in kenjutsu.

But, it’s still not enough.

Though It seems that Tou-sama's school of kenjutsu is called Kenhate-ryu(Sword Style of the Horizon), I have not reached the stage of having that taught to me.

As Tou-sama himself left his teacher's guidance halfway, it seems that it's pretty much self-taught for the other half.

Even then, I really wanted to learn Tou-sama's school of kenjutsu as soon as I can.

As I convey that,

“Don't be impatient. Eri is definitely becoming stronger.”

I feel like I was given the slip.

But in fact, I have become stronger

I do believe that I am doing well.

But, I know that not everything will go well.

The calmness can instantly vanish.

It's the time when winter has ended and the vegetation starts to sprout

As I was swinging my sword to a rather late time on this day, the sun has already set.

There wasn't the usual Kaa-sama that would welcome me back.

The light in the room was also not lit.

"Kaa-sama?"

There wasn't a reply even when I called out.

I moved towards Kaa-sama's room.

——~Batan~

I could hear sounds.

It's from Kaa-sama's room.

As I opened the door,

“.....eh?”

Kaa-sama has collapsed on the floor.

And there was a man who was looking down at her.

Due to the dark room, I couldn't see his face.

But, he has the appearance of an assassin that would appear in stories.

“Ka, Kaa-sama....!”

The man's eyes turned towards me.

“.....a kid”

The man started nearing me.

Just with that, fear envelops the body.

I shouldn't fight with this man.

If I fight, I will definitely be killed.

I could understand it from my intuition.

Even though I have to save Kaa-sama no matter what.

But.....

Run.

Run!

Run!!

Run Run Run Run Run Run!

A sensation that appeals to the whole body.

But——

Even then——

——I swore that I would protect them!

Tou-sama

Kaa-sama

Disregarding my instinct, I tried releasing magic at that man——something shined.

That was a silver sword.

As I realized that, my throat was about to be thrust——

I resolved myself to death.

For the sake of becoming stronger, I worked hard.

For the sake of protecting, I worked hard.

For sake of becoming a knight, I worked hard.

Despite that, will I die without being able to do anything?

The thoughts of regret keep whirling.

But, the moment of death did not come.

“u——”

The sound of anguish

The weapon the guy was holding on was repelled, dancing in the midair.

There was a large back in front of me.

That back was

“To, tou-sama.....!?”

“.....”

It was Tou-sama.

Going into a sword stance, Tou-sama is confronting the man.

“...Eri, Run!”

Tou-sama said that without facing this side.

I could feel a single sense of composure from that low precise voice.

“I am telling you to run!!!!”

“a——”

As ordered, I ran.

Without facing back.

Just ran.

I was scared.

Not about being killed.

Aren't I going to lose Tou-sama and Kaa-sama?

I can't help feeling dreadful about that.

That man is strong.

Stronger than me.

Perhaps, stronger than Tou-sama.

It's fine.

If it's Tou-sama, it's fine.

I prayed.

It's a wish of a lifetime.

I don't mind even if my wishes from now on won't be granted till I die.

If Tou-sama and Kaa-sama can't be saved, I don't mind losing any other thing.

That's why, Kami-sama please. (TL: Kami-sama=God)

Praying to god is all I can do.

As if to shake off my fear.

Just continued running as I lose myself in it.

Even then——I couldn't run away.

By the time I realized, the man has drew near.

What happened to Tou-sama?

What happened to Kaa-sama?

“..... you are their daughter?”

Just listening to that voice, my body could no longer move.

“I see. Daughter. How is it? Do you hate me? I have killed your father and your mother, so do you want to kill me?”

Dead? Tou-sama? Kaa-sama?

In an instant——a dark emotion is taking over my heart.

“That’s right, don’t you think? But, you can’t kill me. It’s a pity. Even though your parents were killed, you couldn’t do a thing. But, it can’t be helped. In the fight, females are just pretty much like that. Just getting assaulted, violated, and finally killed”

The man thrust his fist right in front of my eyes, and spread that hand of his.

And then, silver hair started scattering.

It was Kaa-sama’s hair.

Did this guy cut that beautiful hair of Kaa-sama?

Unforgivable. Unforgivable. However, my voice doesn't come out.

I want to kill. I want to kill this man.

My heart is screaming with anger.

Despite that, it's as this guy has said.

I can't do a thing.

Even though I am burning with the emotion of anger, my body is cowering with fear.

“Even your mother was the same. She died without being able to do a thing. In a pitiful way...It's all because it's the fault of being born as a female.”

Because I am female? The fact that I am a female is the problem?

“But isn’t it a relief? I will not kill you. From now on, you will continue to live while fearing me, til you are dead. I might assault you when you become an adult. And then, I might quickly kill you like your parents.”

Just from hearing the words of the man, my heart was controlled by fear.

Scary. Scary. Scary. Scary. Scary. Scary. Scary. Scary. Scary.

Scary. Scary. Scary. Scary. Scary. Scary. Scary. Scary. Scary.

That was as if I am being imprinted.

“Let’s meet again.....”

After that one last sentence, I lost my conscious.

As my conscious return, I was being protected by the Capital’s Knight unit.

At that time, what I was trying to convey might have been disorderly.

Even then, I was desperate.

I wish that Tou-sama and Kaa-sama could be saved.

I believed that they could still made it in time.

That's why I conveyed desperately with my confused brain.

Seeing my unusual state, Tou-sama's Knight subordinate quickly rushed back home.

But..... by that time, everything was too late.

What I saw after that were Tou-sama's and Kaa-sama's corpses.

I became alone.

Tou-sama and Kaa-sama were gone.

I could no longer be bothered with anything.

I wonder what was wrong?

Was the problem because I am weak?

If at that time I was stronger, would I have saved Tou-sama and Kaa-sama?

Inside my head, the never-ending of answering one's own questions kept repeating.

In the end, no answer came forth.

A funeral took place.

A person that was Tou-sama's subordinate.

Kaa-sama's friend.

The residents of the Capital

Many people were grieved by the death of both people.

But, at that place, not a single relative showed themselves.

"Even though the daughter is also still young."

"...I wonder if it's decided to whom she will marry?"

I could hear such an conversation.

I can't be bothered with it.

The funeral service was over.

I was just standing still In front of the tombstone.

Tou-sama and Kaa-sama are in there.

Tears does not flow.

If I died, would I be able to meet Tou-sama and Kaa-sama?

Such a thought floated in my head.

But, even dying became something that doesn't matter.

A residence of solitude.

No one that I can rely on.

That's what I thought.

On a certain day, a person who wish to take charge of me, who have no

relative, appeared.

“Eri”

That person called my name.

It's a voice that I am familiar with.

For an instant, thinking that it was Tou-sama's voice, I raised my head.

“Do you know who I am?”

“.....Ojii..sama?”

It was Ojii-sama.

“...what are you doing?”

“.....what, you say?”

Ojii-sama was looking at me.

Those eyes was sternly gazing at me.

“Aren’t you going to become a knight?”

“...knight?”

I wanted to become a knight.

I was thinking of becoming one.

To become an excellent knight, just like Tou-sama.

“....didn’t you swear?”

To become a knight, Kaa-sama taught me magic.

Every time I learnt magic, Kaa-sama would make a happy expression.

“You are going to become a knight, right?”

I was reminded of the face of Tou-sama joining the kenjutsu practice.

Every time I win the kenjutsu tournament, he would be happy as if he did it himself.

Lining up the trophy on the shelf, he would smile looking at it.

I wanted — — to become a knight.

One able to protect Tou-sama and Kaa-sama — — To become a knight that could protect everyone.

I promised.

I swore that I would become an excellent knight.

Tou-sama and Kaa-sama are no longer with me now.

Even then——that vow has not disappeared.

“... if I continue to be this weak, I can’t become a knight.”

I will become stronger.

I will become stronger than anyone else.

This time round, I will become strong enough to protect those precious to me.

“...Ojii-sama, what can I do to become strong?”

Tou-sama who would teach kenjutsu no longer exist.

Kaa-sama who would teach magic no longer exist as well.

What can I do to become stronger?

What can I do to become stronger with the fastest and shortest way?

What can I do to become stronger to protect everything from that man?

‘In the fight, females are just pretty much like that. Just getting assaulted, violated, and finally killed’

(TL: Seriously this topic is starting to get on my nerves to some extent.. Even as a male.)

Suddenly, that man’s word swept across my mind.

At the moment, I couldn’t forgive myself for being a female.

If I were a male, would I have been born with a slightly different outcome?

Wasn’t I supposed to fight without running away to protect my parents?

As I thought that, I just kept on regretting.

“I have to become strong, no matter what.”

Though a female that couldn't do a thing, it was at that time that I decided to become a male.

I do not want to remain as the me who was weak and couldn't do a thing.

If the reason I am weak is because I am a female, then I just have to cast away the fact that I am a female.

That's what I thought.

Ojii-sama, who was gazing at me,

“There is an Adventurer Training Institute called Jupiter.”

“Jupiter?”

It was a name that I heard for the first time.

“It seems that many excellent talents gather at that place to aim to become adventurers. If you enter that institute, it’s possible that you will become better than your current self to some extent. But, i think it’s not possible for the current you to enter it”

I, who would even cling to a straw as I do not know how to become stronger, was listening to his talk.

An institute that has a principal who is a hero that defeated the demon king, and instructors that were active as elite adventurers in major guilds.

While the entrance test is difficult, successful applicants are also scarce.

Even graduates are in few numbers, it seems.

However, it’s an adventurer nurturing institute where if you can graduate, you would have acquired enough ability to be enrolled to major guilds or the Capital’s Knight unit.

If I could graduate from that place, I wonder if I would have become strong?

No——I will become strong.

“Ojii-sama, I am off to where Tou-sama and Kaa-sama are.”

It's been a while since I went outside.

I am walking towards where Tou-sama and Kaa-sama slept.

I will become strong enough to be recognised by Tou-sama and Kaa-sama.

I vowed at where both of them slept.

Even though I just vowed strongly, tears flowed from my eyes.

After that, I decided to enter Jupiter Academy.

I piled up training of kenjutsu and magic for 2 years under Ojii-sama.

And at the year where I would turn 16, I passed my entrance test to the Jupiter Academy.

Chapter 38 - Elisha's Secret ⑨ – To Accept One's Weakness

* Mars's POV *

“..... it's something that can't be helped even if you listened, right?”

Elisha gave a bitter smile after finishing her story.

That appearance was somewhat pitiful, and her expression has turned pale.

I wonder if it's my insolence to wish to know the other party's past.

“That's not true. I have come to understand Elisha. But, is it something that Elisha wouldn't want to remember?”

“No. I am the one who decide to talk about it... I have not forget about it as well. And that is the reason why I entered this institute after all.”

“Is Elisha thinking of taking revenge on that man after becoming strong?”

“.....if that man appears right in front of my eyes, I might consider it.”

To possibly consider about it means that revenge is not the main objective for Elisha.

“Revenge isn’t your main aim, right?”

“Yep. I didn’t desire for power to take revenge. I wanted the power for the sake of protecting everyone. I desire for the power to protect those precious to me to the end.”

The power for the sake of revenge.

If Elisha desires it, it’s possible that she might kill the opponent with magic without any hesitation.

But, Elisha has the part where she is scared of injuring the opponent.

The trigger might have been due to the murder of her parents.

And, due to the incident of her magic rampage which almost killed her opponent, that fear turned even more severe, resulting in the inability to use magic.

The reason why Elisha couldn't use magic might have been from such a situation.

Well, this is just my own conjecture though.

"Are you able to kill your enemy to protect?"

".....eh?"

"You can't kill, right?"

".....that's something I am unsure about...."

Elisha's expression was warped in anguish.

She most likely imagined about it.

The instant she was killed by someone.

“There are times when to protect someone, you have to kill another, no matter what.”

“...I can protect even without killing.”

“If there is a difference in ability, then that’s also possible. But, if we think about a situation of a fight of equal, you will die without protecting anything again, you know?”

I declared it clearly.

But, the Elisha now can’t protect anything.

Her determination to be strong is settled.

She also has the aim to become strong so as to be able to protect.

But even so, if she doesn’t have the resolution to kill the opponent in the fight, the one who will die is herself.

The aim that she had set upon, the hard work that she put in, all will end in

futility.

“If you wish to become strong, to protect, you must not be waver. Hold onto your resolution.”

“Resolution....”

“If you can do that, Elisha will become even more stronger.”

“....I got it. I will remember that.”

Elisha nodded seriously.

“Also— —Nah, I guess that’s fine.”

Though there is still actually one more thing I wanted to convey,

“If you have already brought it up, finish it to the end.”

I shouldn't have brought it up.

I was hesitating whether should I say it.

That is regarding the cursed words left behind to Elisha.

Curse——even though I say that, it's not the sorcery type of curse.

It's the curse left behind by the man who killed Elisha's parents.

It's that reason that Elisha is bent on the impression that she can't become strong because she's a female.

But, that's also a mistake.

In reality, there's no such thing as inability to become strong because one is a female.

If you compare the difference between the physique of a male and female to the quality of magic arts and magic, technical skill and combat techniques, it's rather trivial.

If one is concerned with the physique difference, in the first place, humans can't compared with the beast race like the werewolf.

That's why there are also techniques in combat.

That's what we call fighting strength with flexibility. (TL: Direct TL is "Control Hard with Soft Skillfully." Well, basically, what you learn in Judo or even Taiji in that sense, i guess.)

That's why it has nothing to do with gender.

Even so, Elisha feels that she became stronger from disguising as a male.

Even though if one continues to fake oneself, one cannot acquire true strength.

That's because that is rejecting yourself and what are you facing.

Face yourself, and learn about yourself.

Your strengths

Your weaknesses.

Without knowing both, how are you going to get stronger?

To be weak means that there is a possibility to become strong.

Without knowing one's weakness, you can't become stronger.

Elisha's feelings to become stronger is likely genuine.

All the more, I wish that she could face her weakness.

Not just power, but also the heart.

At the end of my worries— —I decided to talk.

"It's better that you stop disguising as a male if you wish to become stronger. You are a female."

Elisha's eyes widened largely.

"...Mars, you were listening to my story, right?"

It was a soft voice.

But, there is definitely anger mixed within it.

“Ah, I heard it. That’s why I will say it. You are a female.”

“I am.... a male.”

I don’t think she will acknowledged that so easily, i guess.

She had been rejecting facing herself like this for many years.

By the curse of that man that killed her parents.

But, this curse that binds Elisha shall end.

“Then, let’s see you strip right here” (TL: Whoa, that’s direct!)

“u——”

Elisha's silver eyes wavered.

Her body solidifies to the point you can see it from just one glance.

"You can't do it, right?"

".....I can."

"You, who screamed after letting me see you naked?"

"Th, that was because it was so sudden then."

Why Elisha doesn't want to recognize it.

That's likely because she is trying to reject that she is a female.

She is running away but putting the everything as the fault of being a female.

"Sudden? As if a guy would scream from letting another guy see his naked self."

“If you are shocked, anyone would scream, right?”

“Then, it isn’t suddenly now, right?”

“...”

Elisha gradually put her hands on her clothes.

The finger that was trying to unbutton her clothes were shivering.

“Are you scared?”

“I am not scared....!”

Even though she denied it, Elisha’s body is trembling.

“Female can’t do anything. They just get assaulted, violated and killed.”

“u——”

Those are the words that are a curse to her.

“Are you afraid of being assaulted? Are you afraid of being violated? Are you afraid of being killed? Because you are a female, can’t you do anything?”

“ ”

Elisha doesn’t say a word.

I stood up to further intensify it.

“Don’t lose to the words of such a person. Don’t think that just because you are a female, you can’t become strong. Don’t deceive yourself that because you are a female, you are weak.”

Elisha's eyes is swaying.

But she doesn't avert her eyes.

I continued to speak.

"Face yourself"

To cut away the curse that binds Elisha.

"It has nothing to do with your gender. It's just that you are weak that you couldn't protect anyone."

Just declaring the truth,

“If you don’t accept this truth properly, you can’t become stronger.”

“.....u——.....——”

Elisha’s expression that has warped to a mortifying one.

But, gradually, it seems to have reach a stage where you can’t control her emotions,

“I know..... I know that!”

Her tears came flooding out.

“I know that because I was weak, Tou-sama and Kaa-sama are dead!”

“.....”

“I already know long ago. About something like that.”

Even then, there might be a reason why she has to deceive herself.

“... that’s why I wanted to become stronger. I desired for a strength enough to protect those precious to me this time. But, I know that I won’t become strong with my current self. At that time, I have no idea how to become stronger. That’s why I wanted a reason for my weakness. To become stronger, I wanted a reason for my weakness. At that time, I heard his words. Females are useless in the battlefield. As if cajolery, those words violated my heart. If I threw away my femininity, I thought I would become strong.” (TL: Guess she might have went crazy if she doesn’t find a reason at that age of hers.)

The reason for her weakness is her femininity.

In that case, becoming a male will make her strong.

Just by thinking that, perhaps she might be able to regain her footing.

But

“At this rate, you will hit a wall, you know? Are you going to deceive yourself at that time? What are you going to put the blame on this time?”

“....that’s.....”

“Don’t avert your eyes away and face yourself. With each and every single weakness. When that happens, you will become even stronger than your current self.”

As I said that, Elisha looked at me with a direct and tactlessly frank look.

“Will I be able to do it?”

“You can. It’s fine even if it’s gradual. It’s fine even if you go slowly.”

“.....I got it.”

Elisha firmly received my words.

“.....Mars, right now, I decided on one thing.”

She said something like that.

“What is it?”

“It’s still a secret.”

“..... I see.”

I wonder if there will be a time when she reviewed that secret to me.

Still. Since she said that, she might tell me someday.

.... In that case, I shall wait for that time now.

“Mars, why don’t you go to the bath? Though I think the bath is still opened, it’s not like it will be opened for the whole day.”

Until she said that, I totally forgot about it

Now that I think of it, I haven’t gotten into the bath yet.

“I see. Then I guess I will go for it.”

Of course, I won’t invite her today.

“Sorry. I have a place I have to go for a bit.”

“After this?”

“Yeah. It’s an important matter so I have to go right now.”

.....Important matter?

I wonder what's that about?

"If it's okay, can I go as well?"

"Nah. I am fine alone. I don't want to rely on Mars too much."

".... I see"

True.

If it's something that can be done alone, it should be done alone.

"Then, be careful."

"Okay. I might be back late, so go ahead and sleep"

“Got it.”

And then, Elisha left the room.

I thought as I was left alone in the room.

Now that I think of it, isn't it better that I change my room?

Well..... Let's try discussing that with Elisha after she came back

Deciding that, I went towards the bath.

Chapter 39 - The End of the Day ① – Elisha's Request

* Elisha's POV *

After Mars went towards the bath, I left the dormitory towards the institute.

The destination is the 9th floor of the institute where the instructors' living quarters are.

Every room in the 9th floor is being allocated to the instructors and it seems that they are permitted to use it as they like.

In other words, it's the instructors' room. (TL: Though it sounds obvious, the phrasing in Japanese was slightly more towards saying that the rooms are still considered to be the institute's properties in the beginning.)

I am proceeding to meet Instructor Lania.

I have a request to ask.

(She might be troubled that I came suddenly.)

But, I wish to make a move now.

To accept 『My Own Weakness』

I have decided to make that one step out after all.

For that, it is necessary that I first reveal that I am a female to Instructor Lania.

But, as I lied about being a male when I entered the institute, it's possible that I might be expelled if I reveal myself as a female.

Though Mars say that something like that wouldn't result in expulsion.

Even then, I am still anxious.

But, if I stay like this, I would not fulfill my goal.

Become stronger

To become stronger than I currently am, and to accept my own weakness.

There is something I have to do first no matter what.

As I am considering that, I quickly arrived at the front of the institute.

The destination has already been decided.

I have also made my determination.

I entered the institute.

As I am about to ascend the stairs,

“Gahahahahahaha!!!!!!”

Laughter could be heard.

I wonder what happened?

As I approached the direction of the voice, I realized that the canteen is getting noisy.

At this time?

The canteen should already no longer be utilized by any student.

If that's the case....?

I walked towards the canteen.

And then,

“Lania, how many cups have you been drinking?”

“I have not drank that much, you know?”

“Gahhahahaha! Right, the party is just getting started!”

“If I joined the party of the dwarf, it will continue till morning.”

The instructors were drinking ale together.

I wonder when did this place turn into a bar?

It was a spectacle that makes you think that way.

“Ara? What’s the matter at this time?”

The person who first realized my presence was the Dark Elf Instructor, Listhy Lilifur.

“Ah, Good, good evening.”

“Un? Elisha?”

Instructor Lania called out to me.

“What’s up?”

Instructor Lania stood up from her seat, and came walking towards me.

“What, do you wish to drink with me?”

“.....It might not be bad to deepen the relationship with the students occasionally.”

Though I heard such words, my business is totally different.

“Instructor Lania, may I have a few minutes of your time?”

“....would it be better if it’s just the two of us?”

“Yes. If possible....”

If I speak to Instructor Lania, it will be revealed to everyone anyway.

But, I wish to talk in a more quiet place.

After all, this place is way too noisy.

“What Lania, are you running away from me?”

“I will accompany you tomorrow. For today, drink with Listhy and the rest.”

“Funn.... that’s fine...Let’s reaffirm our spirit, IT’S A PARTY today!!”

And just like that, the instructors drank together.

As all the instructors are adventurers, they wouldn’t dislike alcohol.

It’s possible that such parties are taking place every night.

I wonder if I might have intruded them?

“Well, let’s go to my room.”

Though Instructor Lania doesn’t give a unpleasant expression, I felt somewhat sorry.

“Sorry that I have intruded.”

“It’s fine. If I keep company with that group, I would be late for lessons tomorrow.”

We arrived at the 9th floor, after ascending the stairs.

Turning right and taking a few steps from there, we stopped.

Though there is a door, the name of Instructor Lania isn’t written on it.

The door doesn’t even have a door knob.

Instructor Lania hold up her hands towards the door.

“—Unlock—”

It seems that a special magic is used to lock up the door.

Due to the 'Unlock' magic, a door knob started to form on the door.

Then, Instructor Lania opened the door,

"Come in."

She permitted me to enter the room.

It's a lot more normal than I thought.

It's a simple room, similar to ours at the dormitory.

Though clothes and books are scattered all around, I could feel that it's really like the rough Instructor Lania.

".....s, sorry that it's messy."

"No, instead, it is I for suddenly intruding. Sorry."

I believe that's because no one usually entered.

As if Lania was thinking "Crap", she frowned.

Though I have heard that instructors have large amount of magic experiments and research tools, it seems that it is not the case for Instructor Lania.

At the very least, to the extent of what my eyes are able to see.

As I entered the room, Lania sat down on the chair.

"Then, I wonder what's the matter?"

She faced me with a sharp look that doesn't seem to have drunk ale just a while ago.

It seems that she is not drunk at all.

If it's like this, there doesn't seem to have a problem to have a serious talk.

“Actually, I have something I wish to reveal to Instructor Lania, and also a request.”

And then, I asked Instructor Lania for a certain request.

Chapter 40 - The End of the Day ② – Night Crawling (Yobai)

* Mars's POV *

As I returned from the bath to the room,

“Welcome back, Mars-san!”

Raphie, wearing a white negligee, welcomed him with a full faced smile..

“...why are you here?”

“I came to night crawl!”

~Piku Piku~ Twitching her long white lop-ears, she boldly puffed up with pride as if it's natural.

Daringly exposed from the chest is the cleavage that can be seen clearly.

Furthermore, for some reason, the cloth on the chest side is thin.

Raphie's skin could almost be seen transparent.

Though she said "Can I come for a night crawl?" before leaving, I could see that she was serious about coming for a night crawl from her clothing.

"Didn't anyone tried to stop you?"

"Have you forgotten about Raphie's ability? If I willed it, I could easily sneak in."

The Mental-type magic of Allurement and the Technical Skill of Controlling Females.

With these two skills, it is true that sneaking would be easy but...

“Come, Mars-san. Let’s spend a passionate night together” (TL:.....)

Raphie approached me closely and pressed her chest against me.

The tenderness of a feminine sensation attacked me.

“Hey, you do know Elisha is also here, right?”

I gently grabbed Raphie’s shoulder, and separated her tightly attached body.

Though Raphie’s unsatisfied expression filled her face,

“Now that I think of it, where’s Elisha-san?”

Unsure if she pulled her together quickly, she asked that after looking restly in the surroundings.

“She isn’t in right now.”

“Then, it means it’s Raphie’s once in a lifetime chance, right!”

Raising both her hands to her chest, she grabbed her hands into fists

Somehow, she seems to be really filled with fighting spirit.

“I was thinking that to copulate in a room where Elisha-san is present, even Mars-san would feel embarrassed.”

Raphie’s eyes is serious in all aspects.

At such a time.

“...now then, let’s sleep.”

I turned off the lights of the room.

“Okay. As it’s the first time for Raphie, I would be happy if you would be gentle!”

Ignoring Raphie’s words, I went up my bed.

Raphie followed afterwards.

As just me lying down on the dormitory’s bed already filled it up, it does not have the wideness for Raphie to enter.

In the first place, it is not designed to have two person sleep on it.

As expected, the dormitory's bed is confined.

Though Raphie made such a thought,

“Do you hate such thing?”

Seemingly not bothered about it, she rode on me. (TL:.....whoa....)

From that horse riding posture, she collapsed her body.

The soft sensation and warmth enveloped my whole body.

“Do Mars-san like to be attacked?”

Murmurs came to the ears.

Those murmurs were sweet and pleasant.

“No, I would prefer to attack”

“Then, is it better for Raphie to be at the bottom?”

“I believe Raphie should descend from the bed, you know?”

“I don’t want. Today, Raphie came to make an established fact.”

She totally doesn’t seem to have the intention to pull back.

“Mars-san, please accept Raphie’s first.”

Raphie, with her moistened feverish eyes and blushed face, placed her hands on my clothes.

But I, ~Goron——~, forcefully rolled my body and laid down with my face against the bed.

I should just sleep just like that.

“Eh, Ma, Mars-san? Why are you laying down with your face?”

Though Raphie is saying something, I will not bother.

“Isn’t this a long-awaited nice atmosphere!? Eh, uhmm Mars-san? Are you really going to sleep?”

Sleep.

I am already going to sleep.

“No, no way! Are you going to leave Raphie alone and fall asleep?”

I could feel softness and warmth on my back.

Raphie doesn't seem to want to separate from me.

"Are you telling Raphie to calm this body that has been set ablaze alone?"

Not minding it, I concentrate on losing my conscious.

"Ha!? Could it be it's that kind of play? Are you planning to tease Raphie?"

Gradually, my conscious was wrapped in slumber.

"Did you want to see an appearance of Raphie comforting herself while calling out Mars-san's name after being unable to withstand it?"

I totally lost my consciousness.

* Raphie’s POV *

“If possible, though I wish to be loved normally at least for the first time, if Mars-san wants it no matter it... eh, ehh? Mars-san?”

“z z z z z z z z z z”

Mars-san had already fallen asleep

I could hear quiet breathing

“Eh? Did he really fall asleep?”

Even Raphie called out, as if natural, there was no reply.

“N, No way.....”

Even though Raphie was troubled with anguish, Mars-san actually fell asleep looking really comfortable.

Despite Raphie coming specially from the female’s dormitory.

Hoping to wake him up, Raphie tried shaking his back lightly.

From Raphie’s hand, the sensation of Mars-san’s tough muscles was transmitted.

Just from touching that body, Raphie somehow felt her heart throbbing.

“~Goku~”

If possible, I want to see that body directly after taking off the clothes.

In Raphie's head, such a wicked thought came across.

Surely, under the clothes is a strictly trained ideal body with totally no useless fats.

(Ah.....)

Just thinking about that, it feels like the mating season has come.

But, Raphie can't copulate alone.

No.....but if Raphie started comforting herself here alone, as expected, would Mars-san also wake up?

But, though Raphie is unsure why, it feels like he would absolutely not wake up.

To begin with, Mars-san fell asleep, leaving Raphie aside after trying to seduce him to that extent.

In other words, he rejected embracing Raphie now.

I would if Raphie doesn't have the charm?

No.... it shouldn't be the case.

Raphie's race rabbitfolk has a good nose.

When Raphie was drew close, the scent of Mars-san did became stronger.

When the males release a strong scent, it's usually when they wish to embrace.

It definitely got stronger due to reacting to Raphie.

If that's the case, is there any reason why he doesn't embrace Raphie?

——Don't tell me Mars-san is impotent!? (TL: LOL!!!)

No, Raphie don't think that's the case as expected.

Heroes lust for girls (TL: Basically an idiom that represents that.)

A male of Mars-san's caliber wouldn't be impotent.

In that case.....

As expected, instead of taking down the body, I wonder if I can only start by capturing the heart?

When attacking Mars at the infirmary as well,

“I do not like Raphie to the extent of becoming a lover.”

I was told that.

If that’s the case, as I thought, I believe I have to reach the phase where we became lovers.

When he likes Raphie from the bottom of his heart, he also said that he would become my other half.

But, how can Raphie get Mars-san to like me?

If seduction doesn’t make him fall, it seems that it will become quite a harsh battle.

For now, I think Raphie should make Bentou every day from now on.

To grasp the male’s stomach, it’s also important for love.

Though it’s still fine now due to the few rivals, it’s not confirmed that there are no other females that would flirt with Mars-san hereafter.

Before that, it's short decisive battle!

I will definitely get Mars-san to become my other half!

That is surely both of our fate after all

Raphie made such a determination again.

(... now then)

Since Mars-san has already fallen asleep, Raphie will also just go to sleep today.

Though Raphie couldn't make an established fact, if Raphie could share a night with Mars-san here, there is a possibility where Mars-san might lose his self-control and turn into a wolf.

(Ah....)

Just thinking about it makes Raphie feel anguish.

The Panties.... Raphie should have brought a change.

Approaching the side of the bed, Raphie moved to a position that can look at Mars-san face.

Raphie managed to squeeze her body into that space.

Though it's also narrow for Raphie's short build, Raphie don't mind as Raphie can glue herself to Mars-san.

Raphie couldn't help but want to kiss Mars-san who is breathing calmly ~Suya suya~.

....but, Raphie will endure it now.

Mars-san doesn't seem to want to do such thing if the other party is not a lover.

Even if that wouldn't be exposed, Raphie think Raphie should refrain from doing things Mars-san would dislike.

Of course, after becoming lovers, Raphie would do lots of it though.

“Good night, Mars-san.”

Within the arms of the peacefully breathing Mars-san, Raphie closed her eyes.

As Raphie is being enveloped in the warmth and smell of the person Raphie

likes, Raphie's consciousness gradually falls to sleep.

Thus, Raphie's memorial day of meeting her fated person ended.

Chapter 41 - Flirting in the Morning

* Mars's POV *

—Gong, Gong Gong.

I could hear the ring of the bell.

Seems like it's already morning.

Even if I close my eyes, maybe due to the light that shine in, you know that the surrounding is getting brighter.

(Uhm...?)

Within my arms, I could feel something soft.

As I embrace closely, a sense of extreme comfort can be felt.

(What is it....?)

Though there is still the desire to sleep in, I was bothered by that sensation that I opened my eyes.

(Eh....?)

It was Raphie who seems to be sleeping with a fortunate expression.

Why is Raphie sleeping in here?

Plus, she is being embraced within my arms.

Though she seems to be still wearing her clothes.

“Munya.... Ma ru su sa n” (TL: Just an e-longated version of Mars-san)

....Etto....

I started processing my thoughts with my still unawakened brain.

....now that I think of it, Raphie intruded the room yesterday, didn't she?

After that, I ignored Raphie who was drawing near, forcing myself to sleep.

(Raphie this fellow, she stayed here without returning.....?)

I thought that if I slept, she would give up and return.

I didn't expect her to squeeze into this narrow bed.

Raphie who is sleeping so comfortably.

Though I thought it would be better to wake her up soon, she seems so fortunate-looking that I am hesitating to wake her up.

As the bell had already rang, we don't have the spare time to be

In the first place, this situation is bad.

If I think of it calmly, Elisha should be sleeping below.

I have to bring Raphie out somehow, without being exposing to Elisha.

I placed my hand on Raphie's shoulder,

——~yusa yusa~, ~yusa yusa~

As gentle as I can, I tried to wake her up.

“...un?”

Raising a half-asleep sound, Her rabbit ears tremble ~piku piku~

Somehow it looks really cute.

I tried brushing those white ears.

“.....Aan”

Raising a sweet charming voice,

“.....uun, eh? Ma ru su san?”

Raphie slowly opened her eyes.

She is likely still half-asleep.

Her ruby-like red eyes appeared drowsy.

“Are you awake?”

“.....Aa...”

At this moment, Raphie buried her face into my chest.

And then, ~kun kun~, she smelled my scent.

“The scent of Mars-san”

“Hey Raphie, are you still half-asleep?”

Saying that, I poked Raphie's forehead.

"Ah...."

"Raphie, it's about time to wake up."

Then, after Raphie gradually focused her eyes,

"Ah.... Good Morning. Mars-san."

With the morning greeting, she gave a coquettish smile to me.

"Ah, Morning."

"It was intense last night. Raphie, thought I will be broken."

Blushing her face with upturned eyes, she said that.

“I didn’t do anything right?”

“Ehehe, I remembered.”

Raphie floated a mischievous smile.

She has totally no sign of learning.

“As it’s already the time for breakfast, she should return to the girl’s dormitory once.”

“No, that’s unnecessary. As I will settle my breakfast here as well, let’s go together.”

Saying that, Raphie raised her body and went down from the bed.

“O, Oi. There’s Elisha below....”

“She doesn’t seem to be here?”

Raphie said that.

I wonder if she have already went for breakfast.

I also came down from the bed.

Elisha’s bed has already become the husk of the shedded skin.

“Well then, shall we go?”

“Are you really going to eat here?”

“Yes. To some extent, as long as you are a student of this institute, you should

be able to receive food after all.”

However, Raphie is still in her negligee.

In front of the male students, that appearance is expectedly not good.

“Raphie, did you not bring a change of clothes?”

“I did bring, you know. I was thinking of going to the institute together with Mars-san from here.”

Raphie pointed at the red bag that was left on the bed.

Though I didn’t realize it yesterday, she even brought it something like that.

The shape of the bag is like a rucksack, extending two straps to be used to be carried on the shoulder.

As it isn’t really big, you can’t really put much stuff into it, but in this case, the small-stature Raphie would easily be able to carry it.

“Then, let’s go after you get changed. I will wait for you outside.”

“Certainly.... If this appearance is seen by the males, it could possibly start the mating season of the wolves. But, for Mars-san, is it fine to receive the starting of your urge to mate?”

“.... well, I will wait outside.”

Ignoring such seductive words, I left the room.

And at that place,

“Y, yo!”

“....Sail? Oh, are you also going to the canteen?”

Immediately after the leaving the room, the Werewolf Sail called out.

Sail has already changed into his uniform.

“O, oh”

“Then, shall we go together?”

“S, since you request for it, it can’t be helped.”

Sail’s tail swayed ~peshi peshi~

Compared to humans, the body of a beastman has many characteristics.

For a werewolf like Sail, the position of the ears are higher than the humans.

Though the humans have the ears on the side of the eyes, the ears are closer to the top of the head in the case of the werewolves.

Fur grow on the ears, becoming rather fluffy.

Other than the ears, another big trait is the fact that a tail is grown around the waist.

The uniform of the beastman are made to match such body characteristics.

For the human's uniform, it's obvious that there is no need for the tail to be put out.

Also, as our body does not grow fur, it's not like it's strong against the cold.

The werewolves don't really differ from the appearance of the humans if you exclude the ears and tail.

Just that, as these two are totally big difference, it's easily realized that one is not a human.

“Are you not going?”

Sail turned his eyes to me who did not move from in front of the room.

Unrelated to the werewolves' trait, Sail himself has light green fur and eyes.

His evil-looking eyes are quite the characteristic. Yep.

“As one more person is coming, please wait.”

“Degen——Is it Elisha?”

About to say ‘Degenerate’, he seems to have expressly changed that.

I wonder if he is being considerate as she is my friend.

He is unexpectedly a sensitive guy.

“No, it’s not her.”

“Huh?”

As we talked about it, the door opened,

“Sorry for the wait.”

Together with the carefree voice, Raphie came out of the room.

“Huh?”

“Mu”

At the moment they met each other, Raphie and Sail glared at each other.

No, Sail just opened his eyes wide, while Raphie seems to be the one who glared one-sidedly.

“Mars, why is the rabbitfolk girl here?”

Sail asked such a thing.

It's an obvious question.

“Werewolf guy, it's rude to call me rabbitfolk girl! Raphie has a splendid name of Raphie Rabbi.”

“You too, Stop with the “Werewolf guy’. I am Sail Rhowl.

What is this?

Are they on bad terms?

“Various things happened, so Raphie would be eating her breakfast on this side.”

“....Seriously?”

“If you don't want to, please go and eat alone. Raphie would eat together with Mars-san after all.”

“Huh? Rabbitfolk girl, you should be the one going back to the girl’s dormitory and eat!”

Provoking words to inflammatory words.

Again, the glaring started.

If I leave it alone, this seems like it’s going to continue for a while.

“For now, let’s go.”

As I started advancing,

“Ah, please wait, Mars-san.”

Raphie chased after me, and entwined around my arm

“Chi——”

Sail clicked his tongue but I do know that he is following from behind.

(Ha.....)

It seems like today will also become a noisy day.

As I thought about that, I moved towards the canteen.

Chapter 42 - Raphie and Sail

Entering the canteen, there was already a queue forming in front of the counter.

“Uwa...the queue is rather long. ”

Looking at the line, Raphie rounded her eyes.

What an unexpected reaction.

I thought that the morning scene of the female’s dormitory would be the same.

“Does the female dormitory not have the same thing as well?”

“Yeah. Though the dormitory is quite filled with seats, the intake is rather sparse. ”

I thought that if it's Nirfa's cooking, I would want to eat everyday, even if I am busy with preparation.

It's possible that the food of the female dormitory isn't that delicious.

"As Raphie is the type that can really eat, I am looking forward to the cooking rumor of the male's dormitory."

It seems like Nirfa's cooking is also famous among the female students.

~Waki waki~ Together with Raphie whose eyes shine, Sail and I lined up.

And then instantly, the surroundings' glance gathered,

"It's Mars and the rest..."

"He's together with Sail as well."

“Eh? Isn’t that Raphie? Why is she here? ”

The canteen that started to get noisy

As Raphie is here, it can’t be helped that we are standing out.

But, “Why is Raphie here?”, you say...

There is no one who came to enquire the reason.

“M, Mars-senpai....!? Ple, please go ahead.”

The student in front of me suddenly moved to the side.

“Eh? No, it’s fine.”

“N, no! Please do go ahead.”

It seems like he wants to let me through no matter what.

Could it be that he is being reserved

“Since he already said to go ahead, isn’t that fine?”

“Raphie also think so.”

Both of them seems to have the same opinion admirably when they had a dispute sometime ago.

Could it be that actually both of them get along unexpectedly?

“Is that so? Then, thank you.”

“No problem!”

We moved up..

And then, with that as a start, we were allowed to go ahead one after the other, and in the end, without any waiting time, we were right in front of the counter.

The dinner yesterday was also certainly something like this.

Well, I am thankful that I can quickly obtained my breakfast.

“Yo, Nirfa.”

“Everyone, Good mornin— —.....Ara? Why is there a female student today?”

As expected, even for Nirfa, she is shocked about the fact that Raphie is here.

Nirfa, who is always dazzlingly smiling is now looking at Raphie while blinking incessantly.

“Nice to meet you. I am Raphie Rabbi. Mars-san’s other-half”

“That’s not it, don’t lie.”

As I cautioned Raphie who lied naturally,

“Nirfa, is it okay to request for Raphie’s share?”

Just in case, I asked for permission.

“Yep. Regardless to gender, there isn’t any problem as long as it’s the institute’s student.”

“Then, Raphie would like to request for this Egg Benedict.”

Raphie who made an order without delay.

“I understand. What would both of you like?”

“Vegetable and ham sandwich.”

Sail was the one who ordered this.

“I guess I will have cheese souffle then.”

I placed the bread-like food called souffle on the tray.

“Anyway, Mars-san, is Elisha-san still in the room?”

“No, he isn’t in the room.”

“Is that so? As he still doesn’t seem to be in the canteen, so I was wondering

what happened...”

If she did not come to the canteen, then that would mean that Elisha did not return since yesterday.

I wonder if she stayed somewhere?

Or is it that she doesn't want to sleep with me so she went camping....?

No, I don't think that's the case.

But, as one would expect, it would be bad if I continue to be Elisha's roommate.

It might be better to change a room somewhere.

“If I meet Elisha, I would tell her that Nirfa is worried.”

“It could be unnecessary assistance, but also conveyed to take his breakfast whenever possible.”

“I got it”

As expected for this dormitory's caretaker.

I believe she is really thinking of the health management of all the students who are living here.

As expected, her name 'Perfect Maid' is not just for show.

....though I am most likely the only one calling her that.

After the conversation with Nirfa ended, we, who took our breakfast, sat on the free seats around.

Strangely, there was a table that was totally empty.

Even though the canteen were crowded, there was no one sitting there.

Obviously, it seems that the seat was emptied for us.

"As I thought, eating with you really makes it convenient."

Sail who sat opposite me, said that.

“Obviously, everyone is being reserved of Mars-san.”

Raphie sitting beside me said that.

“You do really think of that?”

“Yep. But do not be bothered. It’s the natural providence to be subordinated by the strong after all.”

“Huh. Stupid rabbit, why are you acting so proud?”

“Rather, Idiot wolf, aren’t you rather arrogant?”

Again, they are glaring at each other.

They don't seem to be really on good terms.

"Let's quickly eat, shall we?"

"... true."

"Okay."

Three of us took our breakfast together.

In the instant Raphie put Nirfa's cooking into her mouth, she started smiling broadly.

Slowly, she put the food into her mouth savoring it.

Looking at Raphie's expression filled with happiness, this is likely what's called [幸せを噛み締める] (TL: chewed happiness thoroughly).

That's what I thought

*

After finishing our meal and having changed to the uniform, I moved towards the institute with Raphie.

“I didn’t expect we would be eating our meal with him together.”

Raphie who is making a sour face.

“Did something happen in the past?”

“It isn’t just about something that happen!”

When I asked, a violent and intense reaction was returned.

“That wolf-guy was a sexually excited wolf that drew near Raphie a year ago!”

“Drew near, did he attacked as well?”

“Everytime we meet, he would try to make advances on me.”

Is someone like Raphie Sail’s type?

That’s rather unexpected.

“Obviously, I think it was just for fun. Though I just deal with it casually at first...”

Raphie stood her ears irritatingly,

“That idiot wolf came caressing Raphie’s ears one day!”

Looking very annoyed, she glared angrily.

She must have been very angry.

“To have your ears touched, is it something so reluctant?”

“To Raphie and the rabbitfolks, the ears and tails are very precious and sensitive places. Only those who would become the other-halves would be allowed to touch”

After saying that much, Raphie went “Ha——” and looked at me with upturned eyes,

“If it’s Mars-san, I don’t mind you touching it no matter when.”

She pulled the sleeve of my clothes.

As if saying that she wants me to immediately caress, her ears were trembling
~Piku piku.~

Actually I did caress this morning but.... I will not say it.

“... then, what happen afterwards?”

Hearing me, the ears that were trembling immediately stood up again.

“Having my precious touched, even the gentle Raphie would also snapped.
That’s why Raphie cast Allurement magic to return the favor.”

The frank Sail seems to have bad compatibility with Mental-type magic.

I am sure that not long after opposing, he is affected by the allurements magic.

“Raphie ordered, ‘To strip there and take lessons.’”

What a scary order to make.

In other words, you are telling me that Sail exposed himself nude to the students in the class?

“As I thought it’s a bit pitiful to the underwear, I excuse him from that.”

It seems like she does have the heart of mercy. (TL: I don’t really think so....)

“However, I still can remember the flustered wolf after removing the allurements.”

Raphie who smiled like a little devil.

It could be possible that giving Sail a blow was quite a refreshing task.

“But a problem also happened. He has quite the instinct for that idiotic wolf, so he seems to know that Raphie did something. Well, since it’s something that happened immediately after talking to Raphie, so it’s natural that he suspected Raphie.”

“From then on, your relations got bad?”

“Yeah. From then on, every time we meet was due to fate but he doesn’t strangely draw near me anymore. ”

I wonder if it feels like Raphie hates Sail, and Sail is poor against Raphie?

No matter which, from the story, I feel that it isn’t going to be easy to repair both of their relations.

“By the way, do you have plans to get along?”

“Not a single bit.”

Though she is smiling, Raphie's eyes is serious.

Though because of me, they will have more chances meeting up....

Well, if any problem occurs, I guess I will just have to think about dealing it at that time.

Chapter 43 - Elisa Hiland

I have arrived at the classroom.

I surveyed the surrounding.

It seems like Elisha has not arrived yet.

Though I think there is still time before lesson starts, from the serious personality of Elisha, it's hard to think of her coming to class at the last minute.

I wonder if something happen.

Thinking about it, I sat on my our seat.

'Choukon', Raphie has lowered her body next to me, on Elisha's seat.

it seems like she plans to talk to me before the lesson start.

"Mars-san, please look forward to the afternoon today."

"Afternoon? Did something happen?"

“I wish you would eat Raphie’s handmade bento!”

Bento?

When did she prepare it?

As we left the dormitory after I changed right after lunch, I don’t think she should have the time to cook.

....don’t tell me she has already prepared it since yesterday?

“I randomly slipped out of class and prepared it.”

.....that’s what happened.

“Raphie, it’s okay that you don’t do to that extent, you know?”

“No, it’s Raphie who wants Mars-san to eat. Also, it’s not like Raphie wants to

become an adventurer, so the results doesn't really matter."

In regardless she is being surrounded by people who are desperately working hard to become an adventurer, Raphie bluntly spoke.

No, from the other's point of view, if Raphie is no longer part of the competition, wouldn't they be thankful?

"Since it's like this, please do not go to the canteen in the afternoon, okay?"

"...is it really okay?"

"Yes! It's more important to seize Mars-san's stomach than taking lesson."

"If you ended up dropping out, not able to promote, it will be a farewell with Raphie."

"——!?"

Towards my words, it seems like Raphie got an impact, ~Tou~

“It, it’s fine. Raphie’s results are good enough to promote after all.”

Though that’s what she said, as if agitated due to becoming worried, Raphie’s ears were going up and down, ~peta peta~.

“...well, since Raphie say it’s fine, I will believe you, you know?”

“Yes! I will definitely present a delicious bento for you to eat!”

Raphie who is infused with fighting spirit again.

I wonder what kind of cooking would she make?

I am looking forward to lunchtime slightly.

Time has passed and students are entering the classroom one after the other.

Sail was within that group.

Though realizing me, he tried to approach, he changed his direction, seeing Raphie by my side.

And returned to his seat as it is.

It could be that the experience of being stripped by Raphie remained as a rather bitter memory.

By the time the classroom's seats are filled up, the bell to signal the lesson rang.

Separating as if regretting, Raphie returned to her seat.

Even though it's just before the lesson start, Elisha has not come to the classroom.

(.... did something happen?)

If she doesn't come any time soon, I will ask Lania if she knows something.

*

Lania entered the classroom.

“Before we start the lesson, I want to introduce you to a transfer student.”

~Waza waza~, the classroom started to get noisy.

Though it's not for me to say, consecutively for 2 days?

Though I hear that transfer students seldom enter, is it possible that that's actually not true?

“It's fine to enter.”

As Lania said that,

“Excuse me.”

A girl entered the classroom.

Stretching her back seam, she stand beside the teacher’s desk, where Lania is standing.

Towards the beauty that can be understood with a single look, I know that the surrounding students swallowed their breathe.

“I am Elisa Hiland.”

The girl that named herself Elisa Hiland.

Being tall for a female, her beautiful silk-like delicate hair is being tied up behind with a black string.

With the gallant intelligent-looking silver eyes and extremely well-featured face, it feels like something that was totally made to match gold.

It’s a beauty that match exactly the words “容姿端麗”.(TL: Attractive face and

figure)

It's my first time seeing this person called Elisa Hiland.

Perhaps, that's true for the the whole class.

But, I know a person who have similar features as this girl.

"Well then, Elisa. Do take the seat that Elisha is using."

"I understand."

Following instructions, Elisa sat at Elisha's seat beside me.

"Yo"

I called out to Elisa.

“Nice to meet you. I am Elisa Hiland.”

Though she introduced herself again, she gave a smile with that beauty of hers.

That face, as expected, I did not mistake it.

Seeing Elisa’s face from close proximity, I am convinced.

This girl is— —

“This is my real name— —my real appearance. Mars”

Without doubt, she was my friend— —Elisha Haynest.

Chapter 44 - A Step Forward

“Though I would like to have a welcome party for Elisa, we will continue with lessons as normal today.”

While the class is still bewildered, with one sentence from Lania, the lesson for today began.

The first lesson for today is a lesson that Lania is in charge of, Foundation Training.

“All of you, please move over to the Battle Drill room quickly.”

Being told by Lania, the students started moving quickly.

“Mars!”

Lania, who called my name, threw something over.

As I verified it after receiving it, it was a sparkling gem that emits a dull light.

In this institute, it was called a magic stone, a magic item for lesson use.

“Don’t go losing it”

Lania also left the classroom, after just saying that.

Though I think I should also quickly make my move,

“Elisha....no, I guess I should call you Elisa, right?”

Before that, there is something I wanted to ask the girl sitting next to me.

“Whichever Mars find it easier to call. If it’s too confusing, it’s fine to call me Eri.”

“Eri?”

“Yeah. That’s what my family called me——me after all” (TL: Here, me——me is due to her changing her way of refering herself, me(male way)——me(female way))

Since we are close friends, she wants to be called by her pet name.

Is that what it is?

As I have a slight uncomfortable feeling to call Elisha Elisa, I might end up calling wrongly till I get used to it.

In that case, I guess it’s best that I call her by her pet name.

“Then, I guess I shall call you that way.”

“Un. Again, I will be in your care, Mars.”

Eri held her hand out to me

And I griped her hand in return.

“...are you having a nice loving time?”

We heard Raphie’s voice.

Gripping to the edge of the desk, she was looking at us, while squatting as if hiding herself.

“Lo, loving time!? W, what are you saying!” (TL: Uhm... Not sure for a while there, I just heard Hanazawa Kana....)

“...Elisha-san. As expected, you are a female.”

As expected?

Did Raphie realized that Eri was a female?

“... e, it’s Elisa. I— —I am Elisa Hiland. Elisha-san quit school yesterday.”

Elisha was treated to have quit school, while Elisa— —Eri was admitted.

Though it seems to be that way, I wonder what in the world happen in the frame of yesterday’s night?

Lania seems to have introduced Eri, who admitted as a transfer student, without minding it

“Is that so? You say Elisa, right? No matter what, Raphie would not lose! Raphie would be the one who make Mars-san hers!”

A sullen-looking Raphie.

“I, I do not have that intention....”

To Raphie’s words, Elisha’s face was flushed, and has been glancing at me constantly. (TL: Lol, Mars, stop getting confused on what to call her.)

That face obviously means that she is bewildered.

“The smell would not lie. Elisa-san’s body has a smell of a female.”

“Eh!?”

Eri’s face was painted in red.

What do you mean by the smell of a female?

Though it seems that the rabbitfolk has very sensitive nose, can such things

be grasped with that?

“Though I do think that time will only increase the number of rivals.... I can no longer take my time.”

Saying that, Raphie continued.

“Mars-san! Raphie shall go ahead and make a bento at once.”

Leaving such words, she left the classroom.

Seems like she doesn't plan to be present for the first lesson.

“Mars, do I smell weird?”

After Raphie left, Eri tried sniffing her arms, ~kun kun~, and asked me as if she is really worried.

I got closer, and sniff Eri's smell. (TL: Ahem!)

"Ah....."

The smell of soap.

A smell that is calming and refreshing, as if a flower with a slightly sweet scent.

"It's fine. It's just the smell of the soap. As the rabbitfolk's nose are good, it could be they realize something."

"Eh.... ah, u, un."

Hearing my words, Eri cast her eyes down.

I wonder if I said something bad?

“.....oh, I think we should better get going.”

“Ah, t, true.”

Though I still have plenty of stuff to ask,

“It’s fine even when we walk over. Let me clarify something”

“....I got it.”

We left the classroom, and advanced to the Battle Drill room.

“Is Elisha an alias?”

“Nope. It’s not an alias. Elisha is a name I got from Ojii-sama after he took charge of me.”

Losing both her parents, she seems to have cast her name, Elisa Hiland, aside after her grandfather took charge of her.

It seems that the murder case of both her parents is thought to be an assassination case of people related to the Hiland lineage.

The Hiland lineage is a famous Knight lineage in this country.

Rising from a knight, they seem to have become nobles and are entrusted with territory right now.

Unknown of the number of deeds of war raised in previous war, the king evaluate those and bestowed them territories.

Though it’s an honour, not only being a noble, but a lineage of knights that has an overwhelming amount of deeds of arms, it is likely they are used as a tool for political strife.

It’s possible that Eri might be in danger from people who loathed the rise of the Hiland lineage.

For that, Eri's grandfather gave her the name Elisha Haynest.

A person who has no blood relationship with one self.

Eri was raised with such a name.

Likely, it is thought that that would be able to protect Eri.

"I also wished to deny my existence born as a female, as Elisa. That's why I decided to call myself Elisha. Plus, when I took the entrance exam here, I did not want to receive favouritism and passed because of my family name as well."

I understand the reason why Eri calls herself Elisha.

But, if Elisha's ojii-san's anticipation is correct,

"If the assassin is aiming for the people in Eri's family, isn't it dangerous to call yourself Hiland?"

"If I tell Ojii-sama, he would likely be worried. But, this is the Adventurer Training Institute. I believe the chances of them attacking here is low. Also,....

This is just my intuition though...”

There was a gap of hesitation.

“I do not think that he is aiming for the Hiland lineage.”

I guess she meant that she have no proof.

But, Eri seems to be certain about this.

Actually, Eri, who was attacked by him, is saying that.

It might be that there was something that she have assessed.

“Besides, even if this case has been closed, I do not wish to pretend anymore. Didn’t Mars say it? I— —I am a girl.”

Eri showed a slight smile to me.

Even though her appearance changed quickly, her first-person reference wouldn't seem to be fixed soon.

But, I wish to cheer for her attitude to persist on.

“True. Eri is trying hard to accept her weakness, right?”

Then, by any chance, if Eri is to be attacked because of her family.

At that time,

“Un. I think it's not right to make running away a habit after all.”

“Like you said.”

I will protect Eri

“I will also properly train, and become stronger. So watch me, Mars. My growth, that is.”

“Aa”

We already reached the Battle Drill room.

Actually I still have stuff to ask her.

The details before Eri got herself admitted.

But, I decided to not care about those.

The results are already out.

Right now, the girl is here, not as Elisha Haynest, but Elisa Hiland.

As that is already her making a step forward.

“Now then, we shall start foundation training. For now, go run along the walls. 30 rounds would be fine. Once you are done, push-ups, sit-ups, back stretch, 100 times each.”

The lesson on foundation training started once Lania’s instruction was released.

Chapter 45 - The Battle with the Goblins ①

The students who have started the Foundation training, were striving for first place.

As we were also about to join in,

“Wa, wait a minute, Mars. Are you planning to train in that attire?”

Eri asked such a question.

“Ah. Is there a problem?”

“Rather than a problem, if you train as it is, your uniform would get dirty, wouldn't it? Since you didn't have the magic stone yesterday, so it can't be helped, but today you have the magic stone, right?”

“What do you mean?”

By putting in magic power into the stone, it will turn into equipment suitable for the user.

That was what I heard yesterday.

But, does that mean I have to do foundation training while being equipped?

“Mars, take a look at everyone’s appearance.”

“Everyone’s?”

I looked at the appearance of the surrounding students.

There was no longer any student who are still wearing their uniform.

Having said that, there wasn’t anyone equipped with heavy equipment.

“When did they change?”

“Rather than change, the clothing is formed from the magic stone.”

“From the magic stone? It can take form into things other than equipment?”

“Without imaging anything, just by putting in magic power, it will change into a full body equipment. But, if you control the magic power put into the magic stone, you can form just a portion of the equipment. Yesterday, when I fought with the werewolves, do you remember that I only form the short sword?”

Being told, I recalled the battle yesterday.

... now that she said it, in the fight with Rusty, Eri was holding onto her short sword, wasn't she?

Though it's true that she was holding onto her weapon, but her clothing was still her uniform.

“But, what relation is there with foundation training?”

“You don't understand? You just have to form the clothing used for foundation training using the magic stone. Just like this.”

Immediately after saying that, Eri's body was enveloped in light.

And then,

"See"

Instantly, from her uniform, she has changed into lightweight equipment.

White short sleeves and blue short pants, that make movement looks easy.

"So there is such a way to use it."

"Yep. The technique to use the magic stone is learnt immediately after entry to the institute."

"I see. In that case, let's try this out at once."

"Try imaging the clothing everyone is wearing. And then, put in magic power

into the magic stone.”

It’s the same as the process of me using magic.

I imagined the image of using magic.

To the extent of being able to strengthen the accuracy of my image, I get closer to the magic I wish to use.

As I strengthened the image, I poured in magic power into the magical stone.

And then, my whole body is enveloped in light.

“Like this?”

“Yep.”

I verified my body.

It did become the general image as thought.

Like the other students, they were white short sleeves and blue short pants.

“Like this, it’s quite easy to move, right?”

“True.”

“When you want to return to your uniform, you just have to stop the supply for magic power.”

“During the period the equipment is formed from the magic stone, will it stay in a state of continued supply of magic power?”

“Yep. But, as it’s quite small, so if it’s the students that attend this institute, it should be on the level of being not a problem. Compared to the magic power used, the magic power recovered in a day is higher.”

If magic power is not used, it will revert on its own.

Though the speed of recovery do depends on individual’s nature, unless it’s someone who has a very large amount of magic power capacity, it should recover to its maximum capacity if one does not use magic for one day.

Though one can recover through medicine in emergency, it doesn't seem necessary to do that for the lessons' practices.

"I see. Thanks, Eri. You helped me."

"No problem. Now then, shall we start our training?"

Just like that, I learnt the usage of the magic stone.

*

After the lesson on Foundation Training ended, the next lesson on Combat Training started.

Lania will continue to take on as the instructor in charge.

It seems that the lesson on Combat Training this time will be conducted without the use of magic.

It appears that lessons like this are for simulating situations when magic power has ran out in dungeons.

If magic is not usable, what you can rely on in the end is your trained body, and your polished combat skills.

“This time, I will have all of you fight monsters.”

The students all got lively from those words.

“At last, actual combat with monsters!”

“What kind of monsters? Minotaurs? Or could it be Cyclops!?”

Such words were spoken.

From this reaction, does this mean that until now, they have not practise

fighting against monsters?

“There is no way I will let you all fight such high-level monsters suddenly, right?”

Lania said that bewildered.

“As the number of people here who have experience fighting monsters are low, the monsters I will have you fight this time are lower grade monsters. It will be the Rank E monsters, second from the bottom of the actual quests, Goblins!”

Those were the words that Lania continued with.

It seems that that actually got the displeasure of the students.

“G, goblins?”

“It wouldn’t be much of an opponent for training, right?”

I also thought “it’s only goblins”.

But, if numbers gather, goblins are also quite the opponent.

Goblins also basically form groups,

Even if individually goblins are weak, they could be formidable enemies when in groups.

“Say that after you win. I will be summoning 3 goblins. I will stop if I judged that it’s dangerous.”

There is no way I would lose to the goblins.

That was what was expressed from the students’ confident expression.

“Now then, I shall summon them, got it?”

Lania placed her hands on the ground.

“Answer one’s pact— —Dance, the Goblins of Hell”

Along that aria, the ground floated a 6-star formation as if having scorched.

Then, from that 6-star formation, goblins were summoned one after the other.

Total of three.

Though about the height of a human child, their appearance were evil and ugly.

A body of green and muscular. Both the nose and eyes are sharp.

Having red eyes, they hide the ferocity that would make one think of a

demon.

In their hands, they hold a wooden club that doesn't seem to fit that small body of theirs.

Though wooden, it might be life-threatening when attacked by these monsters that know nothing of control.

For those seeing these monsters, they would feel like small ogres.

Maybe that's why they were given the name of 'goblins'. (TL: The Japanese is written as "child/kid orge" so it was explained that way.)

The instant they see the goblins in reality, the students swallowed their saliva.

Though I have no idea what the people here thought, they might have realized that they are not opponents that they can be negligent with.

"The sequence doesn't really matter. Anyone who wants to do it?"

Is anyone going to take the challenge?

It seems like she is examining the situation.

Though I don't mind doing it first....

"Then, let me do it."

The first to raise her voice was Eri.

The magic stone in Eri's hand released light and enveloped her body.

And then,

"Hm?"

It is changing into equipment that was different from what was seen yesterday.

The weapon being the short sword was the same.

But, the armor has changed.

The feeling of the thickness of the silver armor seems to have weakened, turning it into light armor.

The chest armor, gauntlets and boots.

The plate that are guarding the body is pretty much those.

It had turned into a more speed-oriented armor equipment, than before.

Furthermore, it's the blue attire that attracts the eyes.

An armor was put on top of the dress-like attire.

That appearance was like a princess of a noble birth or a knight of the blue sky.

It is an equipment that gives such a mysterious impression.

The surrounding people were opening their eyes wide to Eri's appearance.

Whether it was a shock to her beautiful figure, or shock to the change of the known existence known as Elisha.

“Now then, here it goes”

“...roger”

Instantly after the knight of the blue sky got into stance with her short sword, the three goblins came attacking all at once.

Chapter 46 - The Battle with the Goblins ②

The goblins aren't that intelligent.

By no means can they fight in battles high in calculation.

However, their body is ingrained with the instinct on how to defeat their opponent.

All three of them were not attacking from the front, but from 3 different directions.

Towards the simultaneous attack, I wonder how Eri will cope with it.

"Haaaaaaaaa!"

Eri's decision was fast.

Raising a courageous voice, she charged to the enemy on her right.

Likely, she thought that lying in wait would only get her surrounded.

“Gugaaaaaaa!!”

The goblin tried swinging the club in his hand to counter the coming knight.

But, that attack has totally no technique in it.

Aiming at the instant of it swinging the club widely with its arm, the blue knight raised her one-handed sword.

“Gyaaaaaaaaaaa!”

Fresh blood came gushing out from the goblin’s right arm, with the severed arm dancing in the sky.

Continuing that, the goblin fell with no control from the slashing attack to the head.

The remaining goblins stopped their movement as if hesitating.

Even though a monster, I believe they have emotions after all.

They might have felt fear for that instant, seeing their comrade being killed by the opponent.

However, that opening turned out fatal for those goblins.

Eri sprinted over, not missing out on that opening.

“Haaa!”

She swung her one-handed sword from top to bottom just like that.

Without being able to resist, the goblins,

“Gaaaaaaaaaaa”

Raised a shriek and fell strengthlessly.

And then, there was one left.

The last goblin seems to have its consciousness returned from having its other comrade taken out.

It was examining the enemy's state without attacking with no plans.

The first to attack was Eri.

“Fu——”

She swung her sword that was closing in to the goblin.

It was a small swing to examine the state of the opponent.

Reacting to that attack, the goblin tried defending it using the club.

Eri danced with multiple slashing attacks.

She does not let the opponent have a chance to attack.

Being cut in the arms and body, the floor is flowing with the goblin's blood.

But, the eyes of the goblin are not dead.

So——did it judge that it has no chance of winning as it is?

The goblin assaulted with the resolution of receiving attacks.

One hand was amputated, and fell off.

But, the goblin did not stop.

Raising its remaining arm, it aimed its claw at Elisha's throat.

But——that attack did not reach.

The one-handed sword went through the heart of the goblin's heart from Eri's thrust.

“Haa.....”

Eri who gave a sigh after the battle ended.

The three summoned goblins have already disappeared from the area.

“Un. That’s so-so. For a debut fight, that was great, wasn’t it?”

Saying that, Lania smiled.

While there were students that were bored looking at the attack, there were students that were flabbergasted, showing shock with their mouth opened.

I thought that it wasn’t a bad fight.

“Thank you very much.”

Having regulated her breath, Eri returned to my side from the middle of the battle drill room to the wall.

“Mars, how was it?”

“Ah. While the number of enemies was numerous, the goblins also have power contrary to their small-built after all. Without just pushing in with power, I do think that fighting with techniques and speed to cause confusion is effective. It’s also good that you did not hesitate on your decision.”

As she doesn’t have much experience with fighting monsters and could move that well, it’s quite something.

Just that, since monsters might take unexpectable actions, one must not be negligent towards any opponent.

However, I thought Eri would hesitate about taking the lives of the opponent though.

“If it’s monster, it seems that you can fight normally.”

“..... it doesn’t...seem that way.”

After looking at her properly, Eri's body was trembling.

"I couldn't stop killing monsters. If I don't do it, I will be the one done in. Though I know that.....I thought that it would be better if I could not kill."

Eri's naivety is going to be fatal when the opponent is a human.

Though it's not something you can just get used to.....

"Elisha, if you get into a situation where your life is threatened, you must never waver. That's is even if that opponent is a person you are close to."

".....I understand."

What I can say right now is only this much. (TL: Why does he sounds like he know something about his parents' murder?)

“Next, step forward whoever wants to do it.”

Those who were spiced up from looking at Eri’s battle, came forward to fight one after the other.

I guess I should say as expected of Class A, most of the students were able to acquire victory against the goblins.

Students having a hard fight were also numerous but there wasn’t anyone close to being killed.

And then, just when most of the students have completed their training,

“Mars, how about you?”

Lania asked.

Actually, whether or not I do it, it’s fine but,

“Please show how you fight.”

Sail having said it first,

“I would also like to see it.”

As if to follow up, Eri also said it.

The whole class is giving me their attention.

Though they didn't say it, they seems to be anticipating it.

Looks like it doesn't seem to be the mood to choose the choice of not doing it.

“Then, I guess I should do it.”

I step forward.

“Should I make it around ten goblins?”

“It’s fine even if there’s more, you know?”

“Control yourself, will you”

My first battle using the magic stone.

I wonder what kind of equipment will mine become?.

Though I have used various weapon before, the most fitting one was the two-handed sword.

From young, since I was taught kenjutsu from Master, that could also be related though.

I put in my magic power in the magic stone.

And then——

“As expected——it’s this”

The heavy weight feels familiar in the hand.

What was formed was a two-handed sword.

Contrary on the heavy and thick look, it doesn’t feel heavy.

Though it’s a big sword, it’s something I can hold single-handedly.(TL:....is that still a two-handed sword?)

Other than the edge that was silver, this sword is dyed in black completely,

Even the handle that holds the sword is also black.

It’s a weapon that gives out a slightly ominous atmosphere.

“Hee..... a Black Greatsword, I see”

Lania who said that, murmuring.

The equipment was a blue combat attire that focus on mobility.

Just that, though I said equipment, it looks no different from just clothing.

There was totally no plate that works as armor.

Though I tried moving my body, as if made from very soft materials, it doesn't feel like it's stretching and was really easy to move about.

If there is anything that looks like an armor, it's only the leather gauntlet that is being protected by a plate.

While even the leather boots is no different from normal shoes, the weight of it can be barely felt and it feels as light as being bare-footed.

It seems to be armor that is easy to move in but barely any defensive ability.

“Now then, are you ready?”

“Ah”

But, it doesn't matter as long as I don't receive an attack.

“Then, let's begin.”

The goblins were summoned.

I stood without a stance, and was just waiting but there was no sign of them coming closely at all.

“Un? That's weird. Fight, you all.”

Lania commanded.

But, the goblins were trembling on the spot.

“Aren’t you coming?”

“U.....”

They were just bewildered, not even trying to move.

As if they were rejecting to fight.

Did they understand from their instinct?

That they could not win against me.

“Then, let’s finish this.”

I took a stance with my greatsword on my right hand on that spot.

From right to left, I swung horizontally with the sword.

“.....a”

Instantly—without a sound, the goblins’ heads flew simultaneously.

While blood gushed out from the severed head as if counter-flow of the waterfall, the bodies of ten goblins slowly fell.

“Well, I guess it’s something like this.”

Seeing off the goblins disappearing, I stopped the supply of magic power into the magic stone, releasing my equipment.

The students were unable to understand what happened, and was dumbfounded in shock as if the time has stopped.

“Is it a blade of the wind?”

It seems like Lania was able to see it.

“Ah. I will say it first, but it’s not magic. That just now was kenjutsu.”

Swinging the sword.

Even only with just that, one can cause a blade of wind to come forth from a single swing for those who have mastered the sword and whose swing can reach the speed of light.

It’s one of Master’s specialty sword techniques.(TL: I changed kenjutsu to sword technique due to the usage. I will use kenjutsu for ‘sword arts’ or ‘the way of the sword’, but situation like this, I will use sword techniques.)

The name of the technique is — Fuujin(Wind Blade).(TL: I prefer using Japanese names.)

By the way, it seems to be a school less, self-taught technique.

“You, aren’t you trying to cut me up as well? If I didn’t put up defense in time, it would have hit, you know?”

“No no, that is because there is the faith in the instructor-dono that she will be able to do something about it, you know.”

“Fuunn, say what you like.”

While the students were bewildered, I exchanged some frivolous talk with Lania.

Just like this, the actual combat training against monsters came to an end.

Chapter 47 - Raphie's Specially Made Bento

With the lesson for Magic Theory ended, the lessons in the morning have all concluded.

Though I can't help but feel sleepy throughout the classroom lectures, Eri would always pinch my sides whenever I am about to fall asleep.

For a intense fight with the sleep monster, the sensation was a light exhausted feeling.

"Mars, if it's fine with you, how about going to the canteen together?"

Though Eri invited me for lunch,

"I am to eat with Raphie at the courtyard today."

Though I said that, the person in question Raphie have not arrived at the classroom yet.

“E.....I, I see..... with Raphie-san.”

As I said that, Eri floated a bewildered expression.

Now I think of it, we didn't ate lunch yesterday as well, did we?

If that's the case,

“If it's okay, would Eri want to join us?”

“But, doesn't Raphie-san wants to eat with Mars with just the two of you?”

Though I tried inviting, she was being tactful.

It seems like she is being reserved for Raphie.

“I don’t think Raphie would be reluctant though?”

“Even then, I believe her real intention is to eat with just the two of you.”

Saying as if she has full confidence in it,

“As I will go to the canteen to eat, Mars should just go and eat with Raphie-san alone.”

“I really don’t mind though....”

“You made a promise right?”

“.....a promise, you say.”

It's definitely the case.

Even though everything was planned one-sidedly, I did not disagree to it.

As Raphie went to the extend of being absent from lessons to make me a delicious bento, I should respond to those feelings of hers.

"That's true."

I assented to Eri's words.

"Then, I will be going to the canteen."

"Ah. Let's meet again during the afternoon's lessons."

Waving her hands to answer those words, Eri left the classroom.

(Now then, what should I do until Raphie comes....)

The classroom during the break is unexpectedly quiet.

As most of the students are advancing to the canteen, I guess it should be natural.

The rays of the sunlight from the window feels really good, warming up the body.

It is seducing me, who wanted to fall asleep during the lesson of Magic Theory, to sleep.

I might just fall asleep just this.

As I thought of that.

“M, Mars-san. Sorry for the wait!”

As if jumping in with the whole body, Raphie entered the classroom in excitement.

She was breathing profusely.

She likely had come in a hurry.

“Are you alright?”

“Ye, Yes. Though it’s good that I am eager to let you eat the best bento, I ended up forgetting the time.”

Raphie smiled bitterly, while being embarrassed.

I am honestly happy that Raphie is working hard for my sake.

“Thank you, Raphie.”

“Mars-san, please say that after eating Raphie’s specially made bento.”

Raphie served up the bento held in both her hands.

For some reason, the bento wrapped in yellow cloth looks divine.

It's as if a halo is shining on it.

Even though I have not seen the contents, my instinct is murmuring to me.

That this bento——is not simple.

The evidence is from Raphie herself, her expression that is filled with confidence.

Her behavior is showing as if this bento is the supreme masterpiece.

“Come, Mars-san. Let's got to the courtyard! Lovers should harmonize their relations eating at the courtyard. It's always that way after all.”

Raphie pulled me by the hand, and moved towards the courtyard.

✱

There are a few wooden chairs placed, around the courtyard.

Though not much, there are students who have their meal there as well.

As Raphie said, there are all couples.

Sitting side by side, they were enjoying their meal together while clinging close to each other.

Sitting a distance from the other couples, we sat at an empty place.

“Come, Please let me show you, Mars-san. This specially made bento that Raphie have to return to the female dormitory and borrow the canteen to make this morning.”

As Raphie unwrapped the bento on her laps, what came out was a silver squared bento box.

I guess it has a height of 4 cm and its 4 sides are of around 15cm each?

The size was bigger than I thought.

I wonder what kind of food are inside?

As Raphie opened the cover,

“....un?”

The insides of the bento were orange in color.

“Fufufu, Mars-san. What do you think this is?”

“.....bread.....I think?”

Raphie is smiling fearlessly.

I can't help but have a bad feeling.

“It’s a pity! All of these——are ginseng!”

“Ginseng...?”

But the shape is obviously bread.

With the triangular shape like a sandwich, there is something reddish in between the bread.....wonder if it’s jam.

It was something red like blood, having a really eerie color.

Though I can’t judge from just looking, something seems to be smeared at any rate.

“I mashed the ginseng and harden it into a bread-like shape. Basically, it’s ginseng that is shaped as a bread. However, during the process, I have mixed in a few seasonings into it. Well, I will leave it to your imagination on how the whole process was done.”

I wonder what the ingredients, other than ginseng, are?

Seasonings, what in the world is mixed in it?

Though it's a orange bread from just looking at it,

"Raphie has spreaded Raphie's special sauce to include a hidden taste."

....hid, hidden taste?

What is Raphie saying?

It's not being hidden you know?

If it's going to be a hidden taste, I will troubled if it is not being hidden.

But, isn't this hidden taste spilling out with no restraint?

"Come, Mars-san. Let Raphie feed you, okay?"

"N, no....."

This is bad.

I can feel the crisis for my life.

All my senses are appealing.

That this food is dangerous.

That his ginseng— is not simple.....

“Could it be that you dislike ginseng?”

Raphie lowered her eyes, and looked at me anxiously.

I somehow feel sorry if I do not eat it.

If you are talking about things I can eat, I do not have preferences.

If it's food that I can acquire nutrients from, I would even eat the meat of monsters.

But, how about this?

Though she said sauce, isn't it seething?

If I eat this, can I survive?

Sauce started to drip out from the gaps of the bread.

“c——!?”

Is it an illusion?

The dripping sauce that landed on the lawn of the courtyard, withered the lawn in that instant.

That's how it looks like.

“...look, Mars-san. A~n”

I can't run away.

I wonder when was the last time I met such terror.

Seriously, I do not want to eat.

But, this ginseng horror is food that Raphie had absented herself from lesson to make.

If that's the case, I can't not eat this here.

I can't flatly reject Raphie's feelings of wanting me to eat her cooking.

I resolved myself.

Paku— —

Mogu mogu.

"How is it? Is it delicious?"

Raphie who smiled sweetly looks really fortunate.

Just being able to see that face, I— —

Gokun— —

In the instant I swallow, I saw an illusion as if the sky has been cut into two.

Then, the feeling of falling into the bottom of the sea presses onto me.

Even if I tried to swim up, my body continues to sink.

My sight was dyed in total darkness, not knowing how far I will fall.

“Eh. M, Mars-san!?”

At that time, I lost my consciousness completely.

Chapter 48 - Raphie's Specially Made Bento ②

I can feel a soft fluffy sensation on my head.

It is warm and feel really comfortable.

It was a comfort that you wish to leave your body to forever.

It feels like the hazy conscious is being pulled and sucked away.

What was I doing just now?

I thought of that casually.

If I opened my eyes, I would be able to find out, but my instinct is rejecting it.

I should just leave my body to this warmth as it is.

That's what my instinct is appealing for.

But——Kan, Kan.

I could hear the ring of the bell.

I feel as if that was telling me to open my eyes.

“Ah, I guess the break time has ended.”

I could hear such a voice.

“Though it is regretful, I guess not waking him up would be bad as expected.”

Swaying, my body was shaken.

It was a gentle action.

“Mars-san, please wake up.”

Along that voice, my head was stroked this time round and,

“Nn.....”

My conscious started to return gradually, and slowly, I opened my eyes.

And then, there was— —

“Are you awake?”

Before my eyes was Raphie.

Looking at me, she is making a smile.

“.....Eh?”

I turn my head to the left to verify the surroundings.

I could see the maintained flowerbed and lawn.

After verifying that, I face the front again.

“How’s the sleeping sensation of Raphie’s lap pillow?”

Being asked that, I finally realized.

The soft sensation on the head, and the hard sensation on the back.

It seems like I was sleeping.

Taking Raphie’s lap as a substitute for a pillow.

“To the point I would like to ask again.”

“If it’s Mars-san, I would lend to you anytime.”

Actually, it’s really comfortable.

But, why was I sleeping here?

I should be moving towards the courtyard with Raphie——!?

“R, raphie!! What happened to that?”

Recalling, I jumped up to my feet.

Having eaten that murderous sandwich, due to the excessive gruesomeness....no, I guess I should described as vividness?

The clash of the mysterious taste robbed me of my consciousness.

It totally turned into a situation of suffering from a loss.

“That, as in Raphie’s specially made ginseng sandwich?”

“Yeah!”

That is something that should not be left in this world.

If handled improperly, this institute— —, no, the citizens of this continent will be murdered.

Opposite to my anxiety,

“So, sorry. As I was hungry, I have pretty much finished it.”

“...”

I doubted my ears.

Right now, I perhaps might have shown a stupid expression.

“Though I am really happy that Mars-san took a liking to it, that was Raphie’s favourite food.. So it’s definitely not like Raphie is a glutton, you got it?”

I wonder if it’s shyness.

Raphie is fidgeting her laps.

But, I am not shocked about that.

Are you telling me you ate that?

Are you telling me to this small stature rabbitfolk girl took in all that dreadful product into her body?

Or is that cooking a poison that take effect only against humans?

That’s why the rabbitfolk, Raphie, can eat it safely.

Is that the case?

That should be it.

It can't be wrong!

It's weird if it's not!!

“By the way, as I wish to let Mars-san eat it when you wake up, I left a piece behind.”

.....huh?

“I wanted Mars-san to have the last piece.”

Wait just a minute.

If I let another piece of that into my body, I would not wake up for the second time.

That's the premonition I have.

Picking up the bento box left on the side of the chair with her hands, Raphie removed the lid.

“Wait, Raphie!”

I stopped Raphie in a panic.

I can't let that be unsealed.

“What's wrong?”

Raphie looked in wonder, tilting her head to the side.

I have to somehow overcome this crisis no matter what.

“I am really grateful with Raphie's feelings, but isn't the next lesson starting

already?”

“Ah. Now that you say it, that’s true.”

“Then, let’s return quickly.”

I stood up from the chair.

“I got it.”

Raphie assented.

Seems like she agreed to it.

But I wonder why.

She left the bento box unsealed.

“But before we return, Mars-san ~Aaahhh~”

With Raphie’s eyes sparkling, she looked at me with eyes of great anticipation.

“.....”

It appears that running away is not permitted.

I....can only resign myself to fate.

It’s something Raphie made for my sake.

In that case, it’s natural for me to clean it up.

Confirming my resolve, I opened my mouth.

Gradually, gradually, the food muddled with sauce approached my mouth and in the instant it entered the insides of my mouth— —

~Shuu~——Something transversed really quickly right in front of my eyes.